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high cost of living*

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A TREASURY OF HOUSEHOLD HINTS

*To help you beat the
high cost of living*

EDITED BY MICHAEL GORE

Price \$1.00

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DRESS WELL AT SMALL COST

Selecting, Wearing & Care of Your Wardrobe



1

It pays to do your **clothes buying** with laundering in mind. Buy **fabrics** that wash easily, dry quickly, and need little or no ironing. Acetate, orlon, nylon among others, are made into durable fabrics of many types for clothing and household uses, dry clean beautiful, are mostly washable, and need a minimum of care.

2

Buy **simple classic styles** if you want to get several seasons wear out of them. Avoid fashion fads, extreme styles or novelties, which may become obsolete within a short period. Avoid "bargains" sometimes offered because they are going out of style.

3

Linings in suits and coats should be made of a fine good-wearing fabric that has a smooth, slippery texture so that garment will slip

on and off easily. For longer wear, fabric should be colorfast and perspiration proof.

4

How can you tell whether the color of **clothes linings** will rub off? Try this little trade secret: Rub a handkerchief over the lining. If color shows on the handkerchief, look for another lining.

5

Care for your dresses pays in dollars-and-cents, and keeps you looking "like a million." Keep your eye on the little things. Careful darning will often hide snags, worn places, little cigarette burns. Matched patches hardly show on a print dress. Sometimes a little reinforcement of the seams and buttons on a new dress will save mending bills later on. Check buttons and other trimmings before sending to the cleaner's and sew on any loose ones.

6

To judge the quality of woolen material, squeeze it in your hand. It should feel smooth, rubbery, springy, when you open your hand. If it has a rough feeling, the grade is inferior.

7

Here's a brief education that will save you money, time and drudgery. It's a check-list to use when buying fabrics. 1. Is it color-fast? Color-fast fabrics won't fade, require no special washing, last longer. 2. Is it color-fast to light? No need to worry about exposure to light, or fading. 3. Is it pre-shrunk? If yes, your clothes won't become tight after the first washing, won't require special laundering. 4. Is the stiffening "permanent"? Looks fresh longer, saves the time and trouble of repeated starching. 5. Does it have a "close weave"? Close weaves stay clean longer; they resist dirt and make ironing easier. 6. Will the fabric dry without ironing? Where it's a case of one or the other, you may prefer seersuckers, corduroys, knitted fabrics, terry cloths, etc. for this advantage.

8

Plan clothing purchases to get extra service from each item in the ensemble. For instance, you could begin with a long evening

skirt with a soft, frilly blouse and a smart long-sleeved classic line jacket. This makes an ideal dinner dress. Now substitute a short skirt for the long and you have a dressy afternoon costume. Wear the same short skirt and jacket with a tailored blouse for luncheon. Then turn this outfit into a glamorous evening gown by wearing a sleeveless top of self fabric which will fit smoothly under a fitted belt over your long skirt. You can also use the jacket to wear with a matching street dress. The short skirt will come in handy again to wear with a matching bolero or jumper top.

9

Summer clothing: For hot weather, choose absorbent fabrics for next to skin wear. Fabrics with open weaves or knit fabrics that let the body breathe are more comfortable and wiser and healthier choices. Avoid tight-fitting garments in hot weather.

10

If you drive a car, get in on the side nearest the wheel, instead of scraping along the whole seat until you worm your way into position, thus causing more wear on your clothes, especially furs.

11

Never hang your coat or jacket over a nail. If you can't avoid it, keep the nail covered with an

empty wooden spool to protect the collar and lining.

12

Odors do not kill moths. The fumes from moth crystals (paradichlorobenzene or naphthalene crystals) will destroy eggs, larvae or moths if confined in an air-tight space. Hanging a "moth repellent" cake or container in a constantly used closet is of no value at all. Remember, too, that articles ready for storing should be laundered or dry-cleaned. Moths attack grease spots first of all.

13

Cottons, linens and rayons are not subject to moth damage. Moth diet consists of fabrics of animal origin only, such as wool, hair, fur, feathers.

14

Distribute moth crystals, placed between layers of tissue paper, throughout box, chest or trunk. Use pound of crystals for a trunk, less for smaller containers. Seal every crack or crevice with gummed tape or fumigator's tape. Wrap smaller boxes in heavy wrapping paper before sealing.

15

Brush your coat thoroughly and often. If you own a vacuum cleaner with an upholstery attachment, use that occasionally **to whisk out the dirt.**

16

Tack lining cloth shields in arm-

holes of coats to protect against perspiration and wear.

17

Shiny coat collars can usually be nicely dulled by sponging with a cloth wrung out of hot vinegar. Press the collar on wrong side while still damp.

18

Dry your coat, when soaked in rain or snow, in a well-ventilated room; never near heat. Brush before drying.

19

A scarf will **save wear on the neckline**, besides helping to keep it free of creams, powders and "collar smudge."

20

Beware of friction. **It ages your furs** more quickly than any other common cause. In other words, don't let your furs rub against other objects, or be rubbed, any more than you can possibly help. Frequent carrying of bundles, books and similar objects, driving in your furs for long distances, sitting in your coat when you don't have to, lessen the life and sparkle of your furs.

21

Here's how to hang clothes so they will not stretch out of shape or be disfigured by pin marks. Hang men's shirts by folding the bottom three or four inches of the tail over the line and pin at

ends. Fold sheets hem to hem and turn about four inches over the line. Use one clothespin at each end and two in the middle to prevent sagging. Make sure the sheet hangs straight. Fold handkerchiefs **over** the line; don't let them hang by one end. Never hang any garments by the shoulders.

22

A fur should not be hung in a closet while wet, nor placed near a heated radiator. **Precaution:** Shake the furs till the top hairs fluff, then hang in an open place. Also—as much as possible, keep furs away from strong sunlight.

23

Before putting **woolen bathing suits** away, wash to discourage moths; dry thoroughly; store in paper wrapping, sealed so that it is airtight.

24

Prevent little bumps when **washing woolens** — turn wrong side out to dry.

25

Straw hats can be damaged easily. When putting them away, place them flat down on the brim side—one to a box, the crowns stuffed with tissue.

26

During warm weather, nothing exceeds cold storage, as a **moth preventive**. That's one place where moths definitely can't "take it." Failing this, have furs profession-

ally cleaned, then stored in a sealed container with moth crystals.

27

Rubber raincoats are expensive things, so — "**leak-proof**" the tears in your present one by pressing adhesive tape over them (on the under-side).

28

Keep your sweaters shapely by following these rules: **1.** Never overload sweater pockets so they sag out of shape. **2.** Never put sweaters on hangers. Between wearings, fold neatly and lay them in a drawer. **3.** Before washing a sweater, sew the button holes together so they will not stretch out of shape. That's what is meant by the "stitch in time."

29

Remove veils or fragile trimmings before packing hats away. They will look fresh and new next time you wear them.

30

You don't have to wear **stretched or shrunken sweaters** if you use this shape-preserver: Before washing, lay the sweater out flat on a clean board or large piece of clean paper (not newspaper). Outline the correct shape of the sweater with rustless pins. When the sweater is ready to be dried, after washing, lay it within the outline and pin it down so that it will dry to exact size and shape.

31

If that **old felt hat** has wilted, bring it back to life by holding the hat over steaming pot of boiling water, meanwhile, stroking with a soft brush in the direction of nap. The transformation will delight you.

32

For longest hosiery wear, the right stocking length is important. Stocking lengths are sold as short, medium, and long. Be sure to choose the proper length for your own proportions. Hose too long must be fastened below the welt (double top part), causing runs. Hose too short will develop breaks and runs when the knee is bent. A good "rule of thumb" for anyone with larger thighs is to buy stockings so that the welt will come just below the widest part of the leg when you are seated.

33

Avoid wrinkling hosiery at the knees or ankles by adjusting your garters, if necessary, to a lower position in the welt, but not below the welt.

34

Wouldn't it be wonderful if, after getting a tear in one stocking, you could **mate the good one with another orphan** of the same shade? That's exactly what you can do. Collect all your good "singles," regardless of their colors, and treat them with a color

remover (yours at the five-and-ten). Then tint with stocking dye (also obtainable at the five-and-ten). Your stockings will emerge in one handsome shade and you'll have several pairs ready for wearing. This hosiery-saver works with silk, rayon, cotton, lisle or wool.

35

Save wear and tear on heels and toes of silk or nylon stockings by rubbing these portions with a small piece of beeswax.

36

Glove savers: Fit slowly on **dry** hands, the four fingers first, then the thumb. Smooth all down by gentle, pressure next to the thumb. In taking off, pull by the wrist gently over-hand to the second joint of the fingers, then slide off and smooth back to proper shape. Such careful handling is essential to fine leather and advisable for fabric gloves.

37

When the fingertip of a **torn glove** presents a difficult darning job, drop one of junior's marbles in the finger and you'll have a perfect fitting darning egg to make the job easy.

38

To restore drooping veils, dip them in a gum arabic solution, spread flat on a towel to dry, press carefully with a warm iron. Buy the gum arabic in any drugstore.

Dissolve tablespoon in cup of hot water. Have patience—it may take an hour or even two for the gum arabic to dissolve completely.

39

Another way to give your veils the nice smooth firmness and body you want is to place a piece of waxed paper over them when ironing. Even **rain-soaked veils** will regain their look of newness with this treatment.

40

The "life-preserver" way to store **woolen gloves, scarves and cashmere sweaters** for the summer is to put them into perfectly clean fruit jars, along with moth crystals, then sealing the jars air tight.

41

To **restore colors in fabrics** dissolve a little powdered alum in rinse water for green or black prints, or add a little vinegar to rinse water for red prints; when color has been destroyed by acid, apply ammonia.

42

If shoes air for a day between wearings, accumulated perspiration (which tends to rot linings and leathers) will not have as much chance to wear out your footgear. A daily change of shoes is economical. One authority estimates that this precaution more than doubles the life of shoes.

43

You can **darken** light tan shoes, belts or other leather articles by rubbing evenly and quickly with clean cloth dipped in ammonia.

44

At the **first sign of wear**, have shoes re-soled and re-heeled. Run-down heels throw the shoe body out of shape and eventually break down the construction. If top and sole are allowed to split, the shoe will rapidly lose its "figure."

45

Here's how to **waterproof your shoes** and lengthen their life: Melt together a dressing of two parts of beeswax to one part of mutton fat. Apply it at night and, in the morning, wipe it well with a piece of flannel. You now have waterproof shoes, at practically no cost to you.

46

If you get **caught in the rain** and your shoes are soaked, apply saddle soap to them and let them dry with the soap on. This prevents their getting stiff.

47

Have you scuffed your leather shoes? Rub flexible cement beneath the broken piece. This keeps the scuffed part in place and banishes that "has-been" look. Scuffed toes are also renewed easily by putting a little petroleum jelly on them.

48

Keep **suede shoes clean** when not wearing, in paper or put away in a paper bag. This also helps to preserve original color. To avoid marks from rubbers or galoshes when wearing over suede shoes, slip on feet from old stocking over shoes.

49

When out of shoe polish, a handy substitute is paste floor wax. Its neutral color makes it fine for dark or light shoes.

50

Patent leathers are best cleaned with a dampened cloth and neutral soap. Petroleum jelly also helps prevent cracking.

51

Silence **squeaking shoes** by piercing the sole with three or four little holes, right in back of the ball of the foot.

52

You can keep **new shoes from slipping** by putting small pieces of adhesive tape on both soles and heels until remainder of shoe has roughened. This is especially advisable for children's shoes.

53

Keep **shoes neat and free from dust** in a shoe bag hung in your clothes closet. If the bag touches your clothes when door is closed,

or sandals. When scuffed beyond repair, paint them in bright colors and go over them lightly with colorless nail polish.

54

Rubber boots will last much longer and keep their original shape if the insides are propped up with carboard when the boots are not in use.

55

Plastic hangers are very ornamental and available in a variety of colors to match closet accessories. Designed functionally, with rounded corners, they are easy on your clothes. So easy to keep clean—just wipe with damp cloth.

56

Don't risk losing your beads through breaking of the string. A good idea is to re-string the beads with dental floss. Your beads will be safer and they'll hang gracefully.

57

A famous jeweler's secret beauty lotion for jewelry can be brewed by any housewife. Simply put one ounce of lump borax, $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce of washing soda and $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce of castile soap finely shaved, into a pint of water—boil until the ingredients are dissolved. When partly cooled, stir in $2\frac{1}{2}$ ounces of liquid ammonia and add enough water to make 2 quarts.

Place jewelry in an agate or enamelware vessel, cover with this solution and bring to a boil. Scrub the jewelry with a soft brush, rinse in very hot water and dry carefully. Keep the solution—it will last indefinitely.

58

Rhinestone pins and buckles turn “brand new” when soaked in gasoline for about 15 minutes, then rubbed with a flannel cloth.

59

Keep your **slide fasteners** working for you. Never force them. Close and open with the tab. Always slide them shut before washing or ironing.

60

To avoid an “iron shine”, iron silks and synthetics on the wrong side . . . iron light cottons and linens on the right side, dark cottons and linens on the wrong side.

61

To launder fragile lace, baste it to a piece of cotton fabric. Wash carefully by hand in lukewarm water and mild soapsuds. Gently squeeze out excess water, do not wring or twist.

62

Shirts should be rotated so that each gets equal wear. Why not **number each shirt** inside the neckband, to help keep track?

63

When a shirt applies for retirement because the collar is frayed, say “Nothing doing!” **Reverse the collar**, iron into shape—or remove the old collar and sew on a new one.

64

It’s no trick at all to **button a stiff tab collar** if you wet the tabs slightly.

65

Does Junior howl when you want him to wear rubbers? Protect his feet from moisture by giving the soles of his shoes several coats of shellac.

66

Men’s and boys’ suits will need **fewer dry cleanings** if you take advantage of the small stiff brush attachment that comes with most vacuum cleaners. Try it. Notice how it sucks out the loose dirt and dust — and, in tweeds and heavy woolens, revives the texture.

67

Mend rip and tears: A special tape (in just about any color you want) is sold at five-and-ten-cent stores for exactly the kind of repair needed by torn slacks, trousers, etc. Press the tape in the tear with a hot iron and it will conceal the tear and renew the wear. What’s more, the mending will survive repeated launderings.

HOUSE - CLEANING HINTS

Shortcuts to Better Results and Easier Work



68

Never do your **housework** in a trailing housecoat and mules. Such apparel will not only tire you but it is dangerous. You may trip over them or catch your sleeves on pot handles.

69

To protect freshly-painted window sills, apply a coat of wax to keep dirt and moisture from penetrating their surfaces. **Be sure** to remove wax before repainting.

70

When washing walls and woodwork, always work from the bottom up to avoid streaks caused by dripping water.

71

Never shake rugs or hang them over a line. Shaking breaks threads, damages the backings, loosens knots, tears the bindings. Hanging bends and strains the fibres, causing them to break.

72

A small open market basket with a handle makes a **fine cleaning basket**, easily carried from room to room. Holds small brushes, dusters, polishes, cleansers, etc.

73

Remove paper stuck to any wood by first allowing a few drops of oil to soak into it, then rubbing gently with a clean cloth.

74

Rid rooms of stale tobacco smoke with your own "home-made" deodorizer. Just mix a little diluted ammonia with a bowl of fresh water and let the bowl stay overnight in the room to be purged. Try this in your clothes closets, too.

75

Make your own treated dusters this way: Dip 18-inch cheesecloth

squares in a solution of 2 cups hot water and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup lemon oil. Squeeze out excess liquid and dry.

76

If a rainy or snowy day catches you without a **foot-scraper**, use this practical makeshift to save your floors and rugs. Place a brick or large, sharp stone on your door-mat as a temporary means of scraping mud or snow from your shoes.

77

Get longer use from cleaning cloths by hemming them. Wash them out before they become too dirty and use them again and again.

78

A safe, easy way to gather up small pieces of broken glass is to pat them up with dampened absorbent cotton.

79

Add new life to fiber brooms by washing them occasionally in 2 quarts of warm water to which have been added 4 tablespoons of household ammonia. Let the bristles soak in this for half an hour. Rinse in clear warm water and then hang them up in a cool place to dry.

80

Never stand a broom or brush on its bristles in the closet. Screw a cup-hook at the end of

the handle and hang it up so the bristles don't touch the floor. This prevents the brush from losing its shape or wearing out sooner than necessary.

81

A two-compartment pail costs little more than the regular kind and saves time and trouble. Use one compartment for soapy water, the other for clear. Sponge rubber or cellulose sponge mops are easy to keep clean and fresh.

82

Windows will require less elbow grease to clean if you moisten a rag with some glycerine and use it on those dirty panes. They'll stay clean longer too.

83

Work wonders with this "magic" solution for washing windows and mirrors. Combine 2 tablespoons of household ammonia with 2 quarts of warm water. Or—1 tablespoon kerosene with a touch of borax to 2 quarts of warm water. Be sure to wear rubber gloves when using the cleaner.

84

To make venetian blinds easier to clean and to protect their surfaces, apply furniture wax to each slat, but be sure to remove the wax from surface when repainting them. Venetian blind slats, when soiled may be washed with a cloth wrung out of a mild

soap and water solution. Finger-marks and smudges on slats can usually be removed with an art gum eraser.

85

Venetian blind tapes can be shampooed with upholstery-type shampoo if the tapes are color-fast. Remember to dry tapes completely before rolling up the blinds.

86

Clean and shine mirrors at the same time by adding a little borax to the water used for washing them. Another way to brighten mirrors is to rub with a cloth dampened with a little alcohol.

87

Remove paint splashes from windows and mirrors by washing with turpentine or ammonia, or hot vinegar. Never use a razor as it may scratch the glass.

88

Picture glass is best cleaned with a cloth wrung out of hot water and dipped in alcohol. Polish at once with a chamois cloth until dry and glossy.

89

Clean the dust mop by using the flat tool attachment of the vacuum cleaner. The mop will never get very dirty anyway if you use the vacuum cleaner on the bare floor first.

90

Always dry scrubbing brushes with the bristles down, in the sun, if possible.

91

Brick and unglazed tiles should be sealed with penetrating sealer, then waxed with paste, liquid or self polishing wax for added beauty and easier cleaning.

92

Give glazed wall tiles the sparkle of newness by wiping with a sponge dipped in ammonia and water.

93

To clean door knobs without injuring the wood finish behind them, cut cardboard shields to fit around the door knob and key plate. Then go to it!

94

To remove old wax from your floors, before applying a new coating, first thoroughly ventilate the room itself. Then apply carbon tetrachloride or turpentine with a soft, clean cloth. Remove the softened wax, go over the floor with a cloth wrung out of a soap and water solution, then "rinse." Be sure incidentally, that in using turpentine there is no open flame or fire nearby. Turpentine, as you know, is inflammable.

95

Before using a cloth to wax the

floor, soak it in cold water and wring it out. You will find that the cloth will not, in this way, absorb the wax and that you will save a good deal of wax that would otherwise be wasted.

96

Never use varnish, lacquer or shellac on linoleum: **use wax**. For kitchen floors that must be washed often, a water-base self-polishing wax is best because it washes off easily.

97

Usually, you can do away with light scratches on shellacked, varnished or waxed floors with a solution containing equal parts of turpentine, boiled linseed oil and white vinegar.

98

White spots on your shellacked floors (usually due to spilled water) can easily be removed with a cloth moistened with equal parts denatured alcohol and turpentine.

99

Patches of dirt that are hard to remove from your floors with a dry mop, can easily be cleaned away by rubbing with fine steel wool moistened with turpentine. One way to help **keep muddy footprints off the floors** is by placing a door mat at the outside entrance to your home, or you can place there a scrubbing brush nailed upside down so that muddy

shoes can be wiped off before entering your home.

100

Always use an untreated mop on **rubber tile floors**. Never use lacquer, varnish or paste or liquid wax on this type of floor. Use self-polishing wax or the special finish recommended by manufacturer.

101

Experts say that more **linoleum** is washed away than worn away. Be good to yours. Use a mop wrung out of mild soapsuds to save the brightness yet clean your linoleum speckless. Never, never use abrasives.

102

To remove old wax from **linoleum floors**, add a little packaged cleanser of the water-softening type to the warm soap suds used for washing floors. A scrubbing brush will help you get the wax off easily.

103

Never use oil on a waxed surface, for the oil will soften and dull the wax. Nor should a new coat of wax be laid over an old, stale coat.

104

Sounds silly, but it works! Stale, soft chunks of bread, rubbed over wallpaper in even, vertical strokes, "**erase**" the soiled spots—even very visible fingermarks.

105

Ever given wooden furniture a bath? Not often, of course, once or twice a year. Here's how to do it: Make a light lather—out of mild soap, and lukewarm water. Wring a soft cloth out of this lather. Wash a small area at a time. Then before you go farther, rinse with a cloth wrung out of clear lukewarm water. Dry at once with another soft cloth. Then keep on going with the same routine, but start just within the clean area each time. Last, apply furniture wax or polish according to the manufacturer's directions.

106

Varnished surfaces can usually be cleaned nicely with a cloth dipped in cool, weak tea. That's right! Cool, weak tea.

107

Hard wax, the kind used on automobiles, imparts a rich luster and hard finish to furniture. If furniture is soiled, use the cleaning preparation recommended for automobiles before applying the wax.

108

For a high polish on furniture go over the entire surface with a cloth dampened with equal parts of raw linseed oil and turpentine. Wipe off excess oil with a damp cloth and polish with a dry woolen cloth.

109

Bottle this home-made solution, then use as needed to remove sticky fingermarks from furniture. Add 3 tablespoons linseed oil and 1 tablespoon turpentine to 1 quart hot water. Mix well. Let cool. Wring a soft cloth out of this solution. Apply to furniture. Dry at once with soft cloth. Rub to a polish.

110

A special cleanser for washing painted furniture without taking the paint off, is made by dissolving $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of neutral soap flakes in a quart of water and cool. Stir this in $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of whiting.

111

Sparkle up enameled wood by cleaning with 2 quarts of warm water to which 3 tablespoons of household ammonia and some mild soap have been added. Be sure to rinse with plain water and to dry thoroughly.

112

To clean crevices in carved pieces of furniture, use a cotton-wrapped orange wood stick or wooden skewer.

113

To remove the foggy appearance frequently found on highly polished furniture, rub with the grain of the wood, using a clean piece of cheesecloth which has

been dampened with liquid wax. Follow with polish.

114

Repair crayons will also do a good job of camouflaging scratches, dents or nicks in furniture or woodwork. Select a crayon which matches wood, and melt. Work the melted crayon into the wood until the damage is concealed.

115

To make scratches in mahogany "invisible," dye them with iodine. The same idea works well on other dark woods. Rub light scratches with the cut surface of a walnut meat or Brazil nut meat.

116

To polish antiques or old pieces, use a mixture of two parts turpentine to one part of linseed oil—or equal parts of turpentine, linseed oil and vinegar. Apply with a soft cloth and rub. Polish with a dry cloth.

117

To remove alcohol stains from furniture, go over the spot with a cloth dampened in lemon oil using a circular motion. Then dip cloth in powdered rottenstone, just enough to soil cloth. Gently rub powder on the stain. Wipe off with another cloth moistened with lemon oil. Dry and polish with soft, clean cloth. If necessary, repeat the treatment.

118

Eradicate white spots on mahogany furniture by spreading a thick coat of petroleum jelly over the spots and letting it stand 48 hours before wiping off.

119

Another way to repair scratches on furniture or woodwork is with stick shellac, which can be had in the same color as your furniture finish. Moisten a cheesecloth pad in alcohol and rub it crosswise over the scratch. Soften the shellac stick with a lighted match and work it well into the scratch with a flexible knife blade until the hole or ridge is filled. Go over the surface with fine sandpaper and then apply a thin coat of wax. Buff when wax is dry.

120

To banish watermarks from a waxed finish, remove old wax with liquid wax, then apply a fresh coat. For other finishes, rub with oil of peppermint on a damp cloth, then polish dry with soft cloth.

121

To remove heat marks from a varnished or shellacked finish, dampen a cloth with spirits of camphor or essence of peppermint; dab on spot. Let dry thoroughly. Polish. If the surface is lacquered, rub with a paste of

powdered pumice and linseed oil, in direction of grain. Polish.

122

Wicker furniture should be cleaned by scrubbing with a stiff brush moistened with warm salt water. Salt keeps the wicker from turning yellow.

123

Ceramic, enameled, aluminum, steel tiles should be dusted frequently, and washed with warm, mild soapsuds and sponge. Rinse with sponge wrung out of clear water, dry with soft cloth.

124

Lengthen the life-span of your leather chair by cleaning when soiled with saddle soap, following the manufacturer's directions. Or, use mild soap and then a dry, soft cloth until the surface glistens. Follow with a leather-conditioning dressing, unless the cleanser cleans and conditions. Never use polish, oil, wax, varnish or shellac on leather.

125

Here's how to "shampoo" your own upholstery fabrics: Using an egg beater, whip soap jelly to a stiff lather. Use a firm (but not rough) bristle brush and, with a rotary motion, rub the suds into a small area of the fabric. A generous application of suds will prevent uneven cleansing. Remove

the suds with a dampened sponge, then moisten the sponge again and wipe over the material. Rub gently with a soft dry cloth. Repeat, starting within cleaned area each time until the entire surface is clean. When cleaning a pile fabric, wipe it with the nap of the goods to prevent the fabric from becoming soaked. While the material is drying, brush up the pile with a soft brush.

126

Brighten your soiled glazed chintz (not wax-coated chintz) by spreading it on a flat surface, sponging quickly with lukewarm water. If pressing is necessary, use a lukewarm iron on the wrong side of the chintz, or on the right side with a slightly dampened cloth. Many printed cottons and linens, as well as rayon upholstery and slip cover fabrics, can be treated in the same way.

127

Don't try to wash slip-covers unless you know the fabric is pre-shrunk and colorfast. If you wash them, go over them with a vacuum cleaner attachment to remove all loose dust, especially along the seams or pipings. Use lukewarm, heavy suds and clear, lukewarm rinses. Dry away from sun and heat. If they are to be stored, put away unironed.

128

To brighten a rug, sprinkle salt

over it before using the vacuum cleaner. Sweeps out the soot.

129

An easy way to clean small rugs is to shampoo them. Add a few drops of ammonia to soap jelly; whip to a stiff lather with an egg beater. Scrub a small area at a time with lather on a stiff brush. Rinse with a damp sponge, twice. Rub with a dry cloth. Always start within the cleaned area each time until entire surface is clean. Dry indoors, or in the shade.

130

To clean slightly soiled single-tone rugs, use cornmeal. Work the cornmeal into the pile of the rug with a stiff brush and then remove it with a vacuum cleaner.

131

When you use a vacuum cleaner on small rugs, run it diagonally across the rug and off the edge so that suction won't roll it up.

132

If edges of scatter rugs are fringed, face cleaner toward edge of rug and raise nozzle so cleaner will glide over fringe up to edge of rug. Then lower nozzle and pull it back over the fringe.

133

Linoleum floors are easy to take care of — but not so easy that a few good rules won't help

to make them last a long, long time. So don't use an oil mop on linoleum — oil doesn't agree with it. When you wash it, use mild soap; alkali in strong soaps has a softening effect that you don't want. Scouring powder's not good either — it's likely to break through the surface and scratch. And too much water won't do it any good. Use the least you can for washing and rinsing and work on a small area at a time. Let the floor get thoroughly dry and then use a good floor wax, applied according to the manufacturer's directions. Self-polishing wax is best for the kitchen floor which has to be washed often.

134

After laying linoleum, be particularly sure to apply, immediately, a coating of wax. This helps seal the pores and lengthens life.

135

Protect floors from furniture marks and scratches. The easy way to do this is to wax the rockers and feet of chairs and tables at the same time you wax your floors. This will keep them from scratching and pulling splinters out of the floor boards.

136

Very tiny scratches on waxed woodwork surface can be concealed by rubbing with wax.

137

White furniture can be cleaned by dissolving baking soda in warm water and applying the solution to the furniture with a soft cloth. Then rub with a dry cloth. Use a teaspoon of the solution to a pint of water.

138

Even pleated silk or rayon lamp shades can be washed, if colorfast, unless the fabric or trimming is glued to the frame. Make a rich suds of mild soap and lukewarm water. Then work quickly: Dip the shade up and down in the suds until clean. Use a soft brush on soiled spots if necessary. Rinse three or four times in clear lukewarm water. Pat with turkish towel to remove excess moisture. Dry as rapidly as possible away from sunlight or artificial heat. (Use an electric fan if you have one.) Turn the shade frequently upside down as well as 'round and 'round, so it will dry evenly.

139

Re-papering walls is expensive in both materials and labor. **Make your present wallpaper last longer** by keeping it from soiling and fading in this way: First clean with wallpaper cleanser. Then apply 2 coats of wallpaper sizing. Last, apply one or two coats of wallpaper lacquer or wax emulsion. When dry, you can wash the surface as easily as oilcloth.

140

Revitalize your hand-or-machine-sewn lamp shades by first thoroughly brushing off all dust and then swishing up and down quickly a few times in warm soapy water. Rinse completely in clean warm water. Dry rapidly in front of an electric fan. Never wash a lamp shade that is pasted.

141

The piano may be a large instrument, but it is a very delicate one. So don't try to clean the inside. Leave this to the expert who "voices" it at regular intervals.

142

Never use furniture polish or oil **on the case of your piano**. Dust with soft untreated cloth. Wipe **piano keys** with cloth slightly dampened with denatured alcohol. Wipe dry with soft cloth. (Never use soap on the keys. Soap stains ivory.)

143

Hard rubbing is not necessary for **removing tarnish from flat silver**. Do it this way: Use a large enamel kettle. Place an old aluminum pie pan or layer cake pan in the bottom. Measure water into the kettle. Add 1 tablespoon each baking soda and salt for each quart of water. Bring to boiling point. Put flat silver to be cleaned into the kettle. Be sure each piece either touches the aluminum pan or touches another piece of silver which is in contact with the pan.

Boil 2 to 5 minutes. Remove silver, wash and dry. Rub to a soft polish with a clean flannel cloth. *Do not use this method for hollow ware, flat ware with hollow handles or silver with an oxidized finish.*

144

Add glisten to your copper or brass by moistening rottenstone with sweet oil. apply with a soft cloth and rub vigorously. Polish with flannel or chamois. Rub with dry whiting or tripoli. This gives a richer deeper finish than when acid is used. Renew very old discolored brass or copper by scouring lightly with finest steel

145

An easy, economical way to clean copper is to dip half a lemon in salt and rub the object. Rinse in hot water and polish with a soft cloth.

146

A solution of salt and vinegar will quickly clean **unlacquered brassware or copperware.**

147

Use scouring powder and a wad of paper to **remove rust from knife blades.**

148

To prevent **knife blades** from becoming dulled or nicked. keep them in a wood. plastic or magnetic holder. Never leave cutlery

soaking in the dishpan. Wash and wipe as soon as you have finished using them to keep them free of rust and stain.

149

You'll prevent the inside of your **salt shaker metal top** from rusting if you paint it with ordinary nail polish. When the lacquer is dry, use a darning needle to open the holes from the inside out.

150

Caution: Plastics are chemical compositions which you can mar or destroy by unwittingly using cleansing chemicals harmful to them. In cleaning any of the many household plastic items, be sure to use soap and water only.

151

If you find it necessary to wash **bookshelves**, make sure that the shelves are bone dry before replacing books. Dampness will plague your favorites with mildew.

152

In **dusting books**, wipe the leaf edges away from the binding. Keeps the dirt out of the back-bone pocket.

153

Try this treatment to get rid of **mildew in valuable books.** Brush each spot off, page by page, with an absolutely clean, dry cloth or cleaning tissue. Open the book

and air in a dry, sunny place. If mildew is exceptionally bad, sprinkle French chalk on the page. Close the book and several days later brush the chalk out.

154

Book shelves should not be crowded. If books are packed too tight, bindings may be injured from pressure. Wherever possible, protect books from too dry or too damp air.

155

Gilt frames must be treated gently. When they need cleaning, moisten a pad of soft cloth with a mixture of equal parts of ammonia and denatured alcohol. Apply to frame with almost no pressure. Follow with a dry pad to take up the soil and go on to next area. A little lemon oil applied once or twice a year will prevent cracks. *But never rub.*

156

Dissolve ugly brown stains from glass cooking utensils this easy way: Fill with warm water in which baking soda is dissolved and let stand. Use 3 tablespoons baking soda to 1 quart water.

157

If you love your **fine china dishes** put paper doilies between plates and saucers when stacking, to prevent scratches. Never, never hang

cups by the handles or stack them—set them in a row, instead.

158

Porcelain is easily cleaned with salt sprinkled on a flannel cloth.

159

Artificial flowers look “garden-fresh” again when you remove accumulated dust this clever way: Put the flowers in a paper sack with a cup of corn meal. Then shake. Now look at those flowers. Aren’t they wonderful?

160

Quickly and thoroughly clean **your flower vases and water bottles** with hot water and vinegar or household ammonia.

161

Freshen up your wax flowers by dipping them in alcohol and swabbing them off with a soft, small paint brush.

162

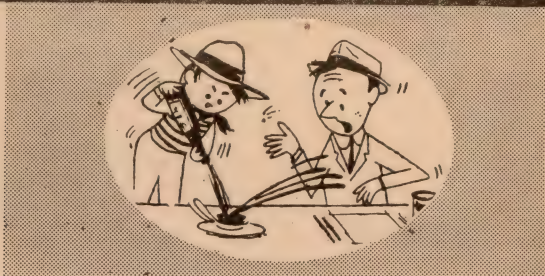
Bring new life to straw flowers by dipping them in and out of warm sudsy water. Rinse quickly in clear water and hang by a piece of string to dry.

163

Deodorize jars and bottles by pouring a solution of water and dry mustard into them, then let them stand for several hours.

SPOTS AND STAINS

Quick & Safe Ways to Remove Various Stains



164

A safe rule to follow for **removing spots and stains from non-washable materials**—take them to a reliable dry-cleaner. The special solvents and cleansing agents needed make it impractical to attempt the job at home. When sending clothes to dry cleaner it is advisable to attach a note stating type and age of stain. **On washable fabrics**, it is a good idea to pretest the results. If in doubt, try the spot-removal “prescription” on a similar piece of goods, or on the hem or other inconspicuous portion of the stained material.

165

Act Promptly. Fresh stains are much easier to remove than old ones. Know the fabric, what it is made of, if it is washable, colorfast. A stain remover used successfully on one type of fabric may be injurious to another.

166

Acids. Act quickly. Wash stain with cold water. Test for color

fastness. Apply few drops ammonia ($\frac{1}{2}$ strength). If stain is slight, hold over fumes of household ammonia, sponge with water.

167

Adhesive Tape Marks. Swab or sponge with carbon tetrachloride or benzine or non-inflammable cleaning fluid.

168

Alcoholic Beverage and Soft Drinks. Stains can be removed by cold water and glycerine, acetic acid, Javelle water, hydrogen peroxide or sodium perborate.

169

Beer. Launder in warm soapsuds.

170

Blood Stains. Soak fresh stains in cold water. Wash in warm suds. For stubborn stain, use salt water solution ($\frac{1}{4}$ cup salt to 2 cups water). Do not use hot water first; it may set the stain.

171

Butter. Launder in warm soapy water.

172

Candle Wax. Crumble off excess. Put stain area between white blotters and press with warm iron, changing blotters when soiled. If stain remains, swab with carbon tetrachloride or solution of 1 cup denatured alcohol in two cups of water.

173

Candy (other than chocolates). Launder in warm soapsuds or apply clean cloth dampened with warm water.

174

Catsup, Chili Sauce, Tomato Juice stains should be sponged thoroughly with cold water and then rubbed with glycerine. After 30 minutes, launder with warm soapsuds. If traces of the stain remain, sponge with hydrogen peroxide and rinse thoroughly in cold water.

175

Chewing Gum. Rub with ice and scrape off gum. If stain remains, sponge with carbon tetrachloride or other solvent.

176

Chocolate or Cocoa. Scrape off excess. Launder in warm soapsuds, rinse thoroughly. If stain persists, sponge with hydrogen peroxide or solution of teaspoon sodium perborate in pint of hydrogen peroxide and rinse thoroughly. Pretest these bleaches to avoid color change.

177

Cleaning Fluid "Rings" can sometimes be steamed out of fabrics over the teakettle. Rings can be avoided if you first fold some clean cheesecloth into a pad and place under the stain. Moisten another piece of clean cheesecloth with the stain remover and work on right side. Start on edge of spot and work toward center. (An exception to this is satin.)

178

Cod Liver Oil. For fresh stain, sponge with carbon tetrachloride; wash in warm suds. Bleach old stains with hydrogen peroxide. Rinse well.

179

Coffee. Pour boiling water from height of 2 or 3 feet through stain. If stain is not removed, bleach with hydrogen peroxide. Rinse well. Do not use soap first, it may set the stain.

180

Coffee (Old Stains). Use chlorine bleach, if color is not affected by bleach. Test first on an inconspicuous part of the article.

181

Colored Fabrics. Always pretest. Apply chemical reagents or bleaches to an unexposed portion first, because they frequently affect dyes. Work quickly when applying bleaches, and rinse thoroughly. Weak alkali such as ammonia solution, will sometimes restore the color changed by an acid treat-

ment. Acetic acid will often restore color that has been changed by alkalis.

182

Cotton and Linen. Avoid strong acids, even such mild ones as lemon juice and vinegar may harm them if allowed to remain too long on the cloth; when used, mild acids should be followed with a rinse of weak ammonia water or baking soda. Avoid strong bleaches for they harm colors; the safest are hydrogen peroxide and sodium perborate.

183

Cream. Soak in cold water. Wash in warm suds. Rinse well.

184

Egg Stains. Do not use hot water. Soak fabrics in cold water, then wash. On fixed surfaces, let dry, scrape off with blunt knife, sponge with carbon tetrachloride if greasy, then sponge with cold water.

185

Fingermarks (On Felt Hats). Rub very fine sandpaper gently with the nap of the felt until the fingermarks disappear.

186

Fruit Juices. Pour boiling water from height of 2 or 3 feet through stain. If stain is not removed, use hydrogen peroxide. Rinse well. Do not use soap first; it may set the stain.

187

Gabardine or Covert Fabrics.

Do not attempt to remove stains from hard, smooth surfaces such as these. Stains penetrate so deeply that they are almost impossible to remove without affecting appearance of the fabric. It's a job for the drycleaner.

188

Glue. Soak in warm water and boil if necessary. For non-washable materials, sponge with non-inflammable cleaning fluid.

189

Grass. Rub with grease (cooking fat or oil) and wash in hot suds. Bleach stain remains with hydrogen peroxide. Rinse well.

190

Gravy. Iron out grease between blotters as for candle wax.

191

Grease and Oils. Scrape off excess. Launder in warm, soapy water, using plenty of soap, rub vigorously. On delicate fabrics, sprinkle absorbent such as chalk, cornstarch, talcum or commercial dry cleaning powder to absorb grease, then brush off. Repeat process if necessary. Or, place stain between two white blotters, press lightly with warm iron, change blotters as soiled. Another method is to spot with carbon tetrachloride, holding gauze under stain to absorb excess. For automobile grease and oil stains, rub lard into spot until grease is absorbed, scrape off and launder.

192

Ice Cream. Soak in cold water. Ice cream is fruit, berry or chocolate, treat stain as such. Wash in warm suds. Rinse well.

193

Indelible Pencil Marks. Try chlorine bleach, unless color of fabric is affected by bleach.

194

Ink. Soak in cold water. Then apply vinegar or lemon juice. Bleach remaining stains with oxalic acid solution. Rinse well, alternating with dilute ammonia. Or soak in sour milk and wash in hot suds.

195

Iodine. Wash in hot suds. Or moisten with water and expose to sunlight.

196

Iron Rust. Stretch fabric over steaming hot water; moisten stains with clear water. Apply lemon juice sparingly, then rinse. Repeat if necessary. Or apply oxalic acid solution or sprinkle with salt and moisten with lemon juice and dry in sun. Or use iron rust soap according to directions on package.

197

Lipstick Or Rouge. Rub with lard or petroleum jelly. Wash in hot suds. If stain remains, bleach with hydrogen peroxide. Do not use soap first; it may set stain.

198

Machine Oil Stains. Rub stain immediately with chalk, then brush

well. If silk, cover spot with talcum powder, allow to stand short time, then brush off.

199

Mercurochrome. Flush out with clear water. Treat remaining stain with chlorine bleach if color is not affected by bleach.

200

Mildew. Wash in hot suds, moisten with lemon juice and salt, and dry in the sun. If stain is old, bleach with hydrogen peroxide. Rinse well.

201

Mud. Dry and brush off, then launder. If stains remain, sponge white fabrics with denatured alcohol; colored fabrics and acetate rayon with carbon tetrachloride.

202

Mustard. Saturate with warm glycerin; wash in soapsuds to which a small amount of alcohol has been added. If stain is stubborn, apply oxalic acid (10% solution) with a medicine dropper; rinse; follow with rinse of ammonia water (1 teaspoon ammonia to 1 pint water).

203

Nail Polish. Apply nail polish remover with glass rod, using pad method. Sponge remaining stain with denatured alcohol.

204

Nylon is not harmed by acids or alkalis, nor does water weaken it. Coffee, tea or fruit stains remain on the surface and wash off easily. Bleaches may be used with safety.

205

Paint. Scrape off excess. Wash in warm suds. If stain has dried, soften with oil, lard or petroleum jelly; sponge with turpentine or banana oil. Wash in warm suds.

206

Paints and Stains (Alcohol). Remove fresh stains by laundering in warm soapsuds or sponging with wood or denatured alcohol. Soak old stains in strong ammonia, pure turpentine or half-and-half solution of ammonia water and turpentine. Rinse with fresh turpentine and launder in warm soapsuds.

207

Perfume. Wash in warm soapy water. Old stains are almost impossible to remove and, also, those caused by certain kinds of perfume.

208

Perspiration. Wash in hot suds. Rinse. Bleach in sun. If stain remains, use hydrogen peroxide.

209

Petroleum jelly. Do not boil. Launder with plenty of soap. Remaining stain can be removed with non-inflammable cleaning fluid, or turpentine. On rayon, silk and wool, sponge with non-inflammable cleaning fluid.

210

Rayon. Handle carefully when wet, water weakens the fibres but strength is usually regained when dry. Never wring or pull wet

rayon. Avoid acids or strong alkalis. Mild acids and alkalis, however, if properly rinsed, are not injurious. Sodium perborate and hydrogen peroxide are the safest bleaches for rayon.

211

Scorch. Moisten and expose to sunlight. Repeat several times. Bleach with hydrogen peroxide, if necessary. Rinse well.

212

Shoe Polish (Wax). Sponge spot with carbon tetrachloride. Launder. Treat any remaining stain with chlorine bleach. Rinse.

213

Sugar Syrup. Wash in lukewarm soapy water.

214

Tea Stains (on Cotton or Linen). If fresh, treat like fruit stains. Or—soak in borax solution (1 teaspoon borax to 1 cup water); rinse in boiling water.

215

Water (on Silk). 5% solution of acetic acid.

216

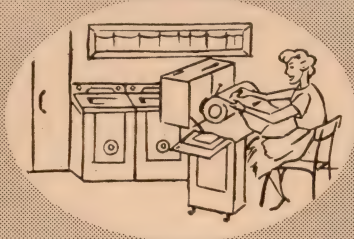
Water (on Velvet). Hold a few minutes over steam escaping from teakettle. Shake out until completely dry, and brush.

217

Wool and Silk. Never use strong acids, alkalis, hot water or bleaches containing chlorine. Diluted acids (not nitric acids) are safe. Care must be exercised if even mild alkalis are used. Sodium perborate is a good bleach.

THE HOME LAUNDRY

How to Obtain Best Results with Less Effort



218

Never allow nylon garments to lie around wrinkled, especially while wet. This might set the wrinkles.

219

Nylon fabrics require little or no ironing if handled properly. After washing a nylon garment squeeze water out gently and smooth wrinkles out while hanging. Avoid hanging white nylon in sunlight. If you iron nylon use a cool iron (275°F.).

220

To conserve energy while ironing, slow but steady strokes are best. It's the heat not the pressure or weight of the iron that does the job.

221

To prevent gloss on dark cottons and linens, iron them on the

wrong side. This also holds true for silks and rayons.

222

To go from a cool to hot iron without waiting, arrange your ironing in this order: start with rayons, wools, silks; and cottons and linens last. When switching from one heat level to another, give the iron a minute to make the adjustment.

223

Bathing suits should be rinsed in fresh water immediately after each wearing and dried in the shade. Wash frequently in mild soapsuds and lukewarm water. Never pack away wet or use hot iron.

224

To make your own clothespin bag, fasten a pair of oval embroidery hoops in the top of a small flour sack, then slip a wire

coat hanger over it. The hanger will move along the clothesline, and the pins are easy to get at when needed.

225

Fiberglas curtains require simple laundering. Just dip up and down in warm, sudsy water. Avoid twisting or wringing.

226

When you have a **big load of dirty clothes** to go into the washing machine, sort them according to how soiled they are. In this way you will be able to wash each group for the right amount of time; no garment will remain dirty because it was more soiled than the others and did not get enough washing. You will save time by not having to keep a whole load in the washer to make sure that the very soiled pieces are thoroughly washed.

227

When sorting clothes for washing **remove pins** that might tear clothes, turn pockets inside out, turn down cuffs on slacks, get rid of sand, grass and grit, and give each piece a casual going over for stains that might be set in the hot water.

228

Before laundering garments or sending them to the dry cleaner's, remove all non-washable trimmings and any buckles or buttons that "can't take it."

229

Tie a knot in **clothes which are stained** before you put them in the clothes hamper, and you will be certain not to overlook them on washday.

230

Is the color fast to washing—yes or no? Before gambling on that new frock, those pretty curtains or that lovely spread, **test the material**. Take a small, inconspicuous corner and dip in clear hot water, then let it soak a few minutes. Squeeze it out. If water is tinted, the color is "fugitive" (not fast), and special precautions are necessary. Launder separately in cool suds and rinse in several cool waters. Work fast. After last rinse, roll in turkish towels to remove excess moisture. Dry in the shade or indoors. This home test is, of course, no substitute for the facts on the label.

231

For **washable fabrics**, use mild soapsuds. Rinse thoroughly after sudsing. Hang colored clothes in the shade to dry. Dry very good dresses on hangers, indoors. Roll sheer fabrics in a turkish towel, press out excess moisture, then iron at once, on the **wrong** side of the material.

232

To tub or not to tub? The correct answer will preserve many a

garment. In general, most wool and silk dresses (and some rayons) must be dry-cleaned. Cottons, linens, some silks, most rayons and a few types of woollens can safely be washed. Always be guided by the label that comes with the garment.

233

Soap, water and the heat of ironing may "set" stains so that they cannot ever be removed. Best plan is to **remove stain** as soon after it occurs as possible. Then launder.

234

Use soft water. Soft water will give better results in washing all fabrics. If the water is hard, it is advisable to use a good commercial water softening agent. The lime and magnesium in hard water form curds in combination with the ordinary soap. Such curds will retain some of the soil in the wash water and more or less cover the fabric, giving it a gray and unattractive appearance. These curds also tend to weaken the fabric in use.

235

Soaking clothes overnight in water that has cooled down and in suds that have died down has a doubtful cleaning value. It tends to give clothes a grayish cast. Best soaking is accomplished by limiting it to 15 minutes in cool water with light suds.

236

In any washing job, use enough soap to make a lively suds that will stand up throughout the washing period. A 2 to 3-inch standing suds is best for the average wash.

237

A tremendous time and wear saver for **home laundering** is the **automatic dryer**. There's no worry about changing weather; no lifting of heavy wet clothes up basement stairs to hang on an outside line; no scurrying out to the yard or up to the roof to remove flapping clothes if it storms suddenly. The dryer also saves much ironing. Articles, such as turkish towels, bedspreads, corduroy playclothes, most underwear, and cotton rugs, need only be fluff-dried, taken out, then stored.

238

A good basic starch of your own: Mix $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of starch with $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of cold water and stir to a smooth paste. Add $2\frac{1}{2}$ quarts of boiling water gradually to the creamed mixture and cook, stirring constantly, for about 5 minutes or until the mixture becomes transparent. For **heavy starch**, mix 1 part basic starch with 1 part lukewarm water. For **medium starch**, 1 part basic starch to 3 or 4 parts lukewarm water. For **light starch**, 1 part basic starch to 5 or 6 parts water.

239

Never wash woollens in hot water; use lukewarm water with 3 to 4 inches of suds. Don't soak, and don't leave in the washing machine longer than three minutes. Rinse in three waters, and press out the excess of water gently. Don't squeeze or twist. Finally, dry on forms or on a flat surface. Some experts recommend rinsing wool in lukewarm water to which one teaspoonful of borax to the gallon has been added. The borax softens the wool.

240

Use lukewarm water for sprinkling. It penetrates the fabric more evenly than cold water.

241

When you dampen wash for ironing, fold each piece lightly. It makes ironing easier because tight crumpling makes extra wrinkles and extra work.

242

As a rule do not leave fabrics rolled up damp. Never let colored garments stand in a heap after washing. The color on a nonfast garment may run off on other clothes.

243

When hanging a coat or dress on the line, use two coat hangers hooked in opposite directions, and the wind will not blow the garment off.

244

Mattress covers and pads should be laundered about once a month in rich warm suds for about ten minutes, wrong side out. If possible, dry out-of-doors, pulling edges straight while drying. Shake gently while drying and replace on bed while still fresh from hanging outdoors.

245

When damp clothes must be kept for awhile before ironing, prevent mildew by keeping them in your refrigerator.

246

For convenience, iron flatwork or men's shirts on a well-padded table top. Cover table with a folded blanket and an old sheet.

247

You can blue clothes right in your automatic washer by adding bluing flakes directly with the soap or other detergent. It is the easy way to blue because washing and bluing are combined in a single operation. Makes clothes look really white, not blue.

248

The trick in ironing tucks neat and flat, is to iron slowly until they are absolutely dry. If tucks are not perfectly dry, they will pucker and look wavy. Vertical tucks should be pulled taut and

ironed lengthwise. **H o r i z o n t a l** tucks should be ironed by starting on the top tuck and working to the bottom tuck.

249

For professional looking bandbox finish, **c o t t o n c l o t h e s** must be properly starched and ironed. To your starch, add the special packaged ironing aid now available in the stores. You'll find ironing easier and quicker. Your clothes will come out smoother, more resistant to soiling.

250

You won't have to iron twice over parts of clothing if you first iron sections that can hang off the board such as cuffs, sleeves, collars and belts. Then iron the body of the garment which requires a larger space on which to be stretched out. Be sure to iron absolutely dry as you go along. Damp cloth will wrinkle again.

251

To steam a velvet coat, hang it over a big kettle of boiling water and let it catch the vapor. Then brush the coat with a piece of velvet till the nap is raised again. Put each of the sleeves over the nose of the teakettle and let the steam penetrate every part thoroughly.

252

Restore your velvet gown to a

lovely newness by brushing it well to remove dust and lint, then steaming it on the wrong side and hanging up to dry.

253

Shiny garments can often be salvaged. Take them to a modern laundry or dry-cleaning establishment in your neighborhood equipped with special presses for the removal of "shine." Be careful, though, particularly with delicate fabrics as this process may weaken them.

254

To remove shine from a serge suit, dampen a sponge or cloth slightly and sponge the shiny parts quite thoroughly. While the fabric is still damp, go over it gently with fine steel wool. (Note: **Fine** steel wool). With this, stroke the fabric, covering about six inches of the suit with each stroke. Results will usually amaze you, give new life to an old suit.

255

Always pay special attention to shoulders, they're so important. **Shoulder pads** should be removed before washing. If they **are not** removable, shoulders should be ironed very dry before doing the sleeves. Otherwise they will redampen the sleeves and may leave unsightly rings.

256

Dry out skirt hems thoroughly

before ironing. Then iron from hem to waist, not across the width of the ironing board. When ironing this way, you work with the fabric, instead of against it. This is important when the skirt is made of any material which has a tendency to stretch or distort.

257

Felt and velvet hats look better if they are brushed frequently and steamed as they are brushed, over spout of steaming kettle.

258

In washing rayons by hand: 1. Use lukewarm water. Soften water, if necessary. Make plenty of suds with a mild soap and bluing flakes. Be sure the soap is dissolved before immersing the fabric. 2. Squeeze suds through and through the soiled parts. Two quick sudsings are better than one long soaking. 3. Rinse thoroughly in lukewarm water.

259

To preserve the **surface texture** of rayon fabrics, press on the wrong side, with a warm, never hot, iron, using a well padded ironing board.

260

Most rayon fabrics should be pressed while slightly damp, although spun rayons usually look best if ironed almost dry.

261

Rayon-and-wool blended fabrics

should be pressed like woolens. Use damp cloth and steam-press.

262

To launder sweaters first wash them gently. 1. Use lukewarm water and mild soapsuds. Squeeze suds and rinse water through the sweater. Don't rub with soap. Don't wring, don't twist. Rinse free of suds in several clear, lukewarm waters. 2. Dry properly. Put sweater between two bath towels and pat excess water out of the garment. Spread to dry on paper or a cloth. Pull gently into shape and stick pins upright in the garment so it dries in shape. 3. Stretch sweater carefully back to outline measurements after washing. Check sleeve length, bust measure, neck-to-bottom length.

263

If **sweaters or hose** must be worn soon after washing, fold them in a turkish towel and run through the wringer, changing towels if necessary. They'll be dry in a jiffy.

264

Brassieres are easy to iron. Iron toward the center of each cup, turning the brassiere on the board until each area is smooth and dry. Then iron the flat sections and the straps.

265

As with all **stockings**, you will get better service if you wash

nylon hosiery after each wearing. Use lukewarm water and mild soapsuds. Rinse them well. Squeeze out the water. Dry stockings away from excessive direct heat. The great point to remember in caring for nylon stockings—or any stockings or articles of clothing for that matter—is to be sure that they're **completely dry before wearing**—especially the heavier parts such as the seams and reinforcements. The time this takes will vary according to the weather, where they are hung, and whether they are sheer or service weight.

266

Girdles won't last forever, but they will hold up better if treated right. Although frequent laundering is all-important, careless washing is ruinous. **To launder correctly:** 1. Use lukewarm water and make a rich suds with mild soap. Squeeze the suds through garment again and again, but don't rub or twist. If there are stubborn soiled spots to contend with, use a soft brush to remove them—don't rub sections of fabric against each other. 2. Rinse several times in clear lukewarm water, squeezing out the water after each rinse. 3. Roll garment in a turkish towel and "knead" gently to remove excess water. 4. When garment is clean, squeeze out soiled water. Never wring or twist. 5. As soon as dry, you can press the fabric part with a warm, not hot

iron. **Do not use the iron on elastic sections of garters.**

267

Once you know how, you can launder any pair of **leather gloves** except chamois and doeskin. This is how: Wash them on your hands in cool suds. For badly soiled spots, use a soft brush. When clean, remove gloves from your hands by rolling down from the wrists—do not pull by the fingers. Rinse thoroughly in cool water and squeeze out water without twisting or wringing. (If gloves have been dry cleaned do not wash them. The cleaning solvent destroys washability.)

268

Chamois and doeskin gloves require this special washing: Work the gloves around in cool suds, constantly squeezing the suds through the leather. **Be sure to wash them off the hands.** Doeskin or chamois, when wet, may stretch or tear along the stitching and it is important, for this reason, to pat the moisture out carefully after the final rinse. Remember—no wringing or twisting. Use the same drying process as for other leather gloves.

269

There's a trick to drying **leather gloves properly** after washing. This is it! Roll in Turkish towel from fingertips toward cuff. After kneading for a few minutes, un-

roll and blow into the fingers to shape them properly. Dry slowly away from direct heat. When still damp, soften leather by working it gently with fingers until pliable.

270

Fabric gloves should be washed off the hands in lukewarm water with thick suds. Rinse well. Smooth to shape and dry over smooth bar or on a flat surface. Try to wash multi-colored gloves with trimmings quickly, before the dye runs.

271

To "dry clean" your gloves at home, try this method: Make a mixture of fuller's earth and pulverized alum. Put the gloves on a board and apply the powder to both sides with a stiff brush—then wipe off. Cover the gloves with a dry bran and brush off. Never attempt to wash gloves that have been dry cleaned even once. Never try to wash any gloves that are not labeled "washable."

272

Your hand bags will last longer if you switch them often. Take time to brush dust from folds of linings and pockets. Preserve the leather by giving a new bag a coat of saddle soap or neutral cream before using for the first time.

273

When spots appear on suede shoes or bags that ordinary

brushing won't remove, try this: Lightly rub over each spot with an emery board—and then steam over a boiling kettle. Your suede will look like new.

274

To clean light-colored felt hats, mix one teaspoonful of salt with two tablespoonfuls of cornmeal. Place on a paper and rub the soiled hat briskly with the mixture, using a soft cloth. When the mixture looks dirty, brush the hat thoroughly with a stiff clean brush and see how marvelously new it looks.

275

Suedes, buckskins and nappy leather shoes should be cleaned with a fairly stiff brush after treating with liquid suede dressing. Watch out for "suede brushes" with wire bristles. They often break down the nap. (A cheap little bath sponge, incidentally, will clean the shoes as well as an expensive "suede brush.") Suede shoes may also be resueded.

276

Don't be discouraged if the color from a very pretty bag tends to rub off on your clothing. A few treatments of liquid wax applied sparingly will save both clothes and bag.

277

Mend a run in your sweater as soon as it develops. The recommended method is a crochet hook

to pick up the last loop, interweaving it with the yarn to keep the vertical rows of the stitching uniform.

278

Wrap silver and gold evening bags in treated tarnish-proof paper to prevent tarnish. Keep in individual boxes. They'll have the sparkle of newness at your next formal.

279

To iron rough, dry garments in a hurry, try this method: Dampen, roll tight, wrap in a cloth and then in paper and put into the oven while the iron is heating. The garments will dampen thoroughly for ironing by evaporation in the warm stove. Only takes a few minutes.

280

Glazed chintz must be ironed on the right side to bring out its luster. Use as much pressure as possible.

281

When ironing colored clothes that are not color-fast, use an extra muslin cloth over ironing board to avoid staining cover.

282

When laundering dacron fabrics, use a little Glim in final rinse water to obviate static electricity when ironing. Iron with a very cool iron and a dry overcloth of cotton.

283

Always hang slacks or any type of trousers by the legs after washing. The wet weight of the garment will take almost all the wrinkles out, so that the slacks will need little pressing.

284

Before washing overalls, trousers and other garments, use a little scrub brush to dislodge the dirt in pocket corners. Saves your clothes, saves fingernails.

285

When ironing shirt collars, press from each corner towards the back of the collar to eliminate those undesirable wrinkles which persist in crinkling the front edges.

286

To remove a very soiled line on collars, cuffs, etc., use an abrasive hand soap. It's easier on the fabric than a brush and removes the soil more quickly.

287

If you do your own washing, don't hang shirts out in freezing weather or in a hot sun. Intense cold tends to break the cotton fibers. A scorching sun weakens them.

288

Keep changing your method of folding napkins or tablecloths from time to time to save excessive wear on certain parts.

KITCHEN "TRADE SECRETS"

Economies, Time-Savers & Other Helpful Hints



289

Save steps in the kitchen by arranging food and utensils at "points of first use". Flour, sugar and spices should be near mixing center; potatoes, onions and other frequently used foods near the sink; pots and pans near the stove; stationary working surfaces should be near the sink, stove and refrigerator, etc., etc. A properly planned kitchen complements the homemaker and a great energy and time saver.

290

Don't depend on your memory. Many housewives go to the market once a week. You will save many "oh, I forgot's" by putting a handy Purchase Reminder Pad (with a pencil tied to it) on to the inside of a convenient clos-

et door and jotting down various items as you run short of them.

291

Government studies show that Americans waste fully 20% of their food through **spoilage and overgenerous portions** which are "pecked at." Practice the food savers in this book. Serve moderate helpings first, second helpings if wanted. This sensible practice minimizes unusable leftovers — and moderate helpings look more appetizing. For every \$10 you spend on food each week, you can save approximately \$2, according to the Government, merely by adopting this highly rewarding habit.

292

Bulging ends on tin cans signify danger! Food inside is spoiled and poisonous. Don't open the can. Return it or throw it away. Dented cans are not, however, dangerous if ends are flat.

The biggest way to save on meat costs is to get your money's worth through waste elimination. These tips will help:

293

Unwrap meat and store in your refrigerator the moment you bring it home. **Quick-frozen meats** should be kept solidly frozen until time to use. Then thaw and cook. Cooked meats should, however, be covered.

294

Keep canned meats in a storage space which is wholly dry and neither extremely hot nor extremely cold. Either extreme tends to change the color and flavor of the contents.

295

When buying meat, ask for the trimmings and "collect a bonus." Simmered with vegetables and well seasoned, they make delicious nourishing soups. Use meat trimmings also to add flavor to dressings, stuffings and casserole dishes.

296

Bones from smoked meats, such as ham hocks, can be made into a tasty stock for lentil, navy bean or split-pea soup. You can

also simmer them to make stock for gravies or sauces.

297

Chopped meat spoils more readily than plain cuts. Use as soon as possible after purchase.

298

Uncooked smoked meats will stay fresh and sweet for a long time if you do this: Saturate a clean cloth with vinegar, wring out, and wrap the bacon or ham in this damp vinegar cloth. Then wrap again in waxed paper and store in refrigerator.

299

A little meat can go a long way: combine it with meat extenders, such as rice, macaroni, spaghetti, noodles, cracker or bread crumbs, vegetables and cereals.

300

Use up that bit of leftover meat by combining it in cream sauce and serving it piping hot with toasted corn bread squares; or by grinding together with minced vegetables and mixing with mayonnaise for tasty, nutritious spreads.

301

If prices for juicy roasts and steaks are up in the sky, **choose cheaper cuts.** Experts say meat is meat — fancy cuts no better for us than thrifty ones.

302

Roast meats at low to moderate temperature and reap these re-

wards: More servings per pound because less shrinkage of meat. Up to 20% saving on fuel. More and better flavor.

303

Add leftover sausage meat to plain pancake batter, or combine with leftover mashed potatoes; form into patties and brown in a sizzling frying pan.

304

Cut pockets in your meat and put money in your own. Filling good meat with stuffing is one of the most attractive, delicious (and simple) ways to do a bit of stretching. Chops, breast, shoulder — almost any cut can be slit and stuffed.

305

Leftover meat gravy. Instead of adding water to the stew or hash, after it has done the honors as a roast, use the gravy you have saved, diluting it with water if necessary.

306

To prevent steaks from curling when you broil them, score the outer edges of fat with a sharp knife at 1-inch intervals.

307

To retain maximum juiciness and prevent frankfurter skins from bursting, cook with only enough water to cover the frankfurters well. Bring to a boil, add the frankfurters, remove pan from the heat, cover, let stand for 7 to 8 minutes.

308

Sausages will shrink less and not break at all if they're boiled about 8 minutes before they're fried, or rolled lightly in flour.

309

Tenderize chicken and other fowl by rubbing them inside and outside with lemon juice after cleaning and before dressing.

310

Make short work of pin-feathers by plucking them from fowl with an ordinary strawberry huller or a large pair of tweezers.

311

One pound of bacon will yield anywhere from 1 to 1½ cups of deliciously flavored fat for use in seasoning and cooking. To keep drippings in best condition for use, follow these precautions: Pour into small jars so bottom layers won't become rancid. Date or number each jar. Store in refrigerator. Use oldest fat first. Economy tip: In baking with bacon drippings, use ¼ less than for other specified shortenings since its shortening power is greater than that of most other fats.

312

Don't throw that bacon rind away! Clean it, then save for flavoring soups and vegetables.

313

To clear fat of sediment, unwanted flavors and foreign matter, add potato slices to melted fat and fry until slices are brown. The

potato will "sponge up" any extraneous flavors and most of the sediment.

314

You can use your fats over and over by straining them after each use. As already suggested, fry slices of potato in fat to remove the odors of fish, onion or other highly flavored foods.

315

Render meat trimmings for the fat. Chop into small pieces, put in a frying pan with a few tablespoons of water, let it cook slowly. The water will evaporate. When the fat stops sizzling, it is melted. To save on cooking fuel, do your rendering in the oven while baking something else.

316

Save meat drippings: strain, clarify and store in the refrigerator. Use for frying and sauteing and for making gravy.

317

To enjoy the best flavor of cooked ham, plan to use it up within a week. Flavor deteriorates after that time.

318

To avoid waste in measuring shortening, use the water-level method. If you need $\frac{1}{2}$ cup shortening fill a measuring cup to $\frac{1}{2}$ mark with water. Drop in shortening, push it under the water; continue until water reaches 1-cup mark. Drain off the water. For $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of shortening, start with $\frac{1}{4}$

cup water; for $\frac{1}{3}$ cup, start with $\frac{2}{3}$ cup of water, and so on.

319

Get your shortening money's worth by using every bit in the container. When you've come to the hard-to-get-at last of it, pour boiling water into the can and the shortening will rise to the top. When chilled, skim off the solid fat, wrap in waxed paper and keep till wanted.

320

One way to conserve butter is to use bacon drippings on top of casseroles, instead of butter. Same goes for frying potatoes.

321

Don't spend money on good sea food only to waste it through improper care before cooking. At room temperature, fish and all other sea food spoil in a few hours. Cook at once, or wrap in waxed paper to keep odor from other foods, and store in freezer or coldest part of refrigerator.

322

Retain the flavor and juices in the fish you prepare by never overcooking and avoiding high cooking temperatures. Broiling time, 12 to 15 minutes for three pounds. Boiling time, 10 minutes per pound. Always simmer, never actually boil.

323

Hard-shell clams are easier to open if boiling water is poured over them. No hammers, please!

324

Add oomph to fried oysters by rolling them in cracker crumbs mixed with a teaspoonful of celery salt, before frying.

325

Turn one pound of butter into two with the magic of gelatin. Work one pound of butter into small pieces. Let stand at room temperature until soft enough to beat. Soften one envelope of unflavored gelatin in $\frac{1}{4}$ cup cold water or milk. Add $1\frac{3}{4}$ cups hot fresh or evaporated milk, stir until all gelatin is dissolved. Cool to lukewarm. Gradually whip milk into butter with beater or electric mixer. Add coloring if desired. Keep covered, in refrigerator. Use within a week—as a spread, not for cooking.

326

Another "butter-stretcher":

One pound butter plus two cups evaporated milk equal two pounds of butter, believe it or not. Bring the butter to room temperature and beat to cream—egg-beater will do fine! Add two cups evaporated milk, little at a time. Keep on beating until all the milk is absorbed. Chill to a solid, and you're twice as butter rich.

327

Use rendered chicken fat for making biscuits to serve with chicken dishes or on chicken pie. It saves "bought" shortening and adds delicious flavor. Use it, too,

in cream sauces to serve with vegetables or meats where chicken flavor will count!

328

When melting margarine to use as a vegetable dressing, use only a low flame, to preserve the delicate margarine flavor.

329

Can't afford whipped cream? Nonsense! Light cream will whip if you will spend a little time. Mix $1\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoons unflavored gelatine and 2 tablespoons cold water in small deep bowl. Dissolve over hot water. Add 1 cup light cream and dash of salt. Place in larger bowl of ice and water and whip with rotary egg-beater 5 to 7 minutes, or until it begins to hold shape around edges. Remove from ice water. Stir gently with spoon until smooth. Serve. Or store in refrigerator and stir well before using.

330

Dainty pastel whipped creams for cake toppings and party sauces can be made with light cream and fruit-flavored gelatin (strawberry, raspberry, cherry, orange, lemon, or lime). Dissolve $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of flavored gelatin in $\frac{1}{4}$ cup boiling water. Add 1 cup light cream and continue as for unflavored gelatin.

331

Save money by using evaporated milk in place of whipping cream when you make ice cream or

topping for cakes or puddings, or any recipes that call for whipped cream. The trick is to have the evaporated milk, the bowl and the beater thoroughly chilled. To whip, pour milk into cold bowl, and whip with chilled rotary beater as for cream.

332

You can coax more cream out of milk by heating the milk until lukewarm, then chill it suddenly.

333

Don't pour sour milk or cream down the drain. If the cream is just turning sour, restore it to sweetness by adding a pinch of baking soda. If it's really sour, use it as topping for soups, in salad dressings, gravies, and in baking. In recipes that call for sweet milk, just add $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of baking soda for each cup of sour milk and deduct 2 teaspoons of baking powder.

334

Don't buy a quart of sour milk or buttermilk because you need a cupful for a special recipe. Just add 2 tablespoons of vinegar to 1 cup of sweet milk and stir. Presto! Sour milk.

335

Remove the burnt taste from scorched milk by putting the pan in cold water and adding a pinch of salt to the milk.

336

To keep cheese fresh, wrap in a cloth dampened with vinegar

and store in a cool place (but not in refrigerator).

337

To be sure that cheese will be evenly distributed in cooked dishes, grate, slice or cube it before adding to other ingredients.

338

Cheese souffle will stay up high, light, handsome, if you use quick-cooking tapioca instead of flour to thicken the milk base. Take 3 tablespoons tapioca to 1 cup milk for a 3-egg souffle.

339

Stale, dried-up cheese turns into a delicious spread when placed into the meat grinder with chunks of raw onion.

340

Swiss cheese, muenster, American and similar cheeses are still tastily edible, even when dried out. Simply grate and use with spaghetti, soup or vegetables.

341

When buying fresh eggs, you should know that: 1. A fresh egg sinks in water. 2. The shell should be dull and rough. 3. The yolk should be in the center. (Hold egg up to light.) 4. The contents should not shake back and forth loosely.

342

The color of the egg shell has nothing to do with the quality of an egg. Buy brown or white eggs, whichever are cheaper. Old ones are smooth and shiny. Fresh eggs

are rough and chalky in appearance.

343

Eggs beat up lighter and make finer cake when not too cold. They should be at cool room temperature (60°F. to 70°F.) for best results. When making sponge cakes, especially angel food, remove eggs from refrigerator several hours before using.

344

Don't wash eggs before storing. Water destroys the protective film that keeps out air and odors.

345

Save spoilage, too, by keeping eggs in the refrigerator. Place them away from foods with penetrating odors.

346

Cracked eggs can be cooked in water without waste. Add a teaspoon salt to boiling water, immerse egg, and contents will not ooze out. The salt helps egg white to set quickly.

347

Quickly and easily separate whites from yolks of eggs by breaking them gently into a funnel. The whites pass through and the yolks remain. It's easiest to separate whites and yolks right after removing eggs from the refrigerator.

348

Egg shells can be removed easily from hot hard-boiled eggs

if they're quickly rinsed in cold water.

349

Here's a French secret for perfect poached eggs. Add a tablespoon of vinegar and some salt to the water. Stir the boiling water with a spoon until you have a whirlpool in the center. Slip the egg from a saucer into the whirlpool and keep stirring gently until the egg is cooked to your delight.

350

To keep egg yolks fresh for several days, cover with cold water and store in refrigerator.

351

To use up leftover egg yolks, poach them until firm, then cool and put through sieve. Nice for salads, soup garnishes, canapes.

352

Believe it or not, a boiled egg should never be boiled. Simmering produces tastier, better results. The same is also true of "hard-boiled" eggs.

353

To prevent eggs from cracking when they are to be boiled, allow them to stand a few minutes, in very warm water before putting in boiling water.

354

In buying most fruits and vegetables, remember freshness is a key to value. Staleness betrays loss of vitamins. Distinguish between blemishes that merely de-

tract from looks and those that affect taste and quality. The ugly ducklings cost less and often offer equally good food value. Don't buy wilted or shrunk fruits or vegetables.

355

For instance, shop deliberately for **tomatoes which are misshapen or scarred**, but otherwise o.k. They cost less yet serve just as well, especially for cooking. As for hardy vegetables and fruits, like potatoes, onions, and apples, buy in quantity — then use the ripest first.

356

Buy fresh fruit in season only. Dried fruits are **good buys** in terms of food value and price. When you buy canned fruit, try the large sizes and broken pieces of fruit. They taste the same and cost much less.

357

Keeping fruits and vegetables directly on ice is an **invitation to spoilage**, and a waste of money.

358

You can easily **prevent vegetables and greens from spoiling** in the refrigerator compartment, by lining the bottom of the container with paper toweling. This absorbs the excess moisture which accumulates in the bottom of the container.

359

If you can't use **green vegetables** as soon as you buy them,

store them in your refrigerator. They lose vitamins if kept at room temperature.

360

Use the liquid from canned vegetables in soups, sauces, stews, gravies, casserole dishes, and for **making white sauce** for creamed vegetables.

361

Do not soak fresh vegetables or salad greens in water for any great length of time. Soaking dissolves the minerals, reduces the vitamin content.

362

Preserve as much of the vitamin content of vegetables as possible by cooking only until they are fork tender. Always keep them covered while cooking.

363

Soups to be served chilled, cold or jellied should be made the night before, as **overnight refrigeration** merges the flavor. Be sure to chill the cups in which they are to be served.

364

De-salt that oversalted soup by merely slicing a raw potato into it and boiling for a short time. Then remove potato, which will have absorbed most of the salt.

365

A little oatmeal adds much flavor and richness when used as a **thickener for soups**. Try it.

366

No one need know you scorched those **vegetables!** Set the pot in pan of cold water and let stand for 15 to 30 minutes. Don't scrape the bottom of the pot.

367

Never—oh, never!—use soda in cooking green vegetables. It increases loss of **vitamins** — and even if the vegetable looks pretty, it won't mean much with important food-value gone.

368

Wash leafy vegetables, such as spinach, thoroughly just before cooking. Add no water — **the water that clings to the leaves** is enough to cook them in.

369

Lettuce to go into refrigerator should be wrapped in paper towel rather than a cloth bag. Then the leaves won't "**rust.**"

370

Don't discard the outer lettuce leaves just because they're unattractive. Wash and crisp them in cold water and use shredded, in salads or sandwiches.

371

Mix all kinds of greens for salads — inexpensive cabbage, dandelions, spinach leaves, tender beet-tops. Crisp and cold, and tossed with good French dressing, they are delicious and nutritious.

372

Don't throw **beet-tops** away. Actually they make a fine, free substitute for spinach greens, being rich in vitamins and minerals, especially iron.

373

Beets practically pop right out of their skins after they're boiled if dipped in cold water.

374

Those **pea pods** you ordinarily throw away add flavor to soup.

375

Why waste **celery tops?** Cut them up and use to flavor meats, stews, soups, roasts, stuffings.

376

Cut carrots and other long vegetables lengthwise when cooking. Less of the nourishing part will escape during cooking.

377

To put attractive **scalloped edges** on thin cucumber slices, just run the tines of a fork lengthwise over the peeled cucumber, and then slice.

378

Spark up the flavor of ripe olives by soaking them overnight in olive oil to which has been added a very small clove of garlic.

379

Make green olives tastier by pouring off the brine and adding two tablespoons of olive oil. Shake

well and let stand half an hour before using.

380

Before shredding the kernels off corn on the cob, **pierce the corn** vertically with an ice-pick. This provides a convenient handle. Rest the other end of the ear on a cake tin.

381

You can remove corn silk much more thoroughly by using a small stiff brush for those last remaining strands.

382

Wilted asparagus will come to life if the stems are set for a while into cold water.

383

To make fruit go farther, add cubes of bright-flavored gelatin dessert (lime, strawberry, etc.). Pretty to serve in sherbets.

384

Don't add sugar to sweeten peas. It's much cheaper, and tastier, to cook peas with a few empty green pods.

385

If shredded coconut get dry, make extra delicious by toasting. Sprinkle it on a baking sheet and heat in moderate oven, shaking occasionally to brown evenly.

386

Place a piece of apple in your brown sugar jar and it will keep the sugar from drying out and

lumping. Try the same cure for too-dry cookies.

387

Make fruit jams and jellies when fruits are at their best and their cheapest. For sure success, use bottled or powdered pectin products and follow the tested recipes. These products give more glasses of jelly for the fruit used and take the guesswork out of jelly making!

388

To keep cauliflower snowy white, soak for half an hour in cold salt water before cooking it.

389

Guaranteed: No tears in your eyes **when you peel onions**. Just hold them under running cold water as you peel them.

390

Lessen the odor of cooking turnips by adding a teaspoonful of sugar to the water. They'll be more flavorful, too.

391

Cook fresh or quick-frozen vegetables in a small amount of water in a covered saucepan to **conserve nutrients and flavor**. Use briskly boiling salted water. Allow $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 teaspoon salt for each pound of vegetable or each pint of water used.

392

Cook potatoes and other root vegetables in their jackets. Valuable vitamins and minerals are near to the skin.

393

Bake potatoes in half the usual time. Let them stand in boiling water 15 minutes before popping them into a very hot oven.

394

Keep sweet potatoes from looking dried out by greasing the skins with any cooking fat or oil before baking them.

395

Mashed potatoes will look like whipped cream if hot milk is added to them before you start mashing.

396

Fried potatoes will be deliciously golden brown if sprinkled lightly with flour before frying.

397

Rice grains will stay separate and white if cooked in water to which a teaspoonful of lemon has been added for each quart.

398

Get more juice out of lemons. Quickly heat them in hot water for several minutes before squeezing. Or roll to soften.

399

Oranges, too! To increase the amount of juice you get from them, keep the oranges at room temperature — or warm them before squeezing by holding them under the hot water faucet. This does not injure the vitamin content, yet gives you almost again

as much juice. Rolling an orange, lemon or grapefruit a few times before squeezing will also provide more juice than otherwise.

400

Make wonderful ambrosia by layering thinly sliced oranges and shredded cocoanut. Sweeten slightly and chill to blend flavors.

401

Before squeezing oranges, and lemons, grate the rind and use as a flavoring for cakes, puddings, pies, etc.

402

A clever woman also saves some of her orange and lemon rinds, boils them in water for a short time and uses the liquid in iced tea, lemonade, and fruit drinks. Costs nothing and helps make a fine thirst-quencher.

403

Keep lemons fresh longer in a tightly closed jar of water in the refrigerator. A cut lemon will also stay juicy for several days if a piece of waxed paper is pressed firmly over the cut end.

404

If only a little lemon juice is needed, make a cut in the end of the lemon and squeeze out exactly the amount desired. The rest will keep better.

405

To save time, **squeeze your oranges the night before!** Keep the juice covered in refrigerator until morning so the precious vitamins will still be there. Use quick frozen orange juice, too. It's vitamin-rich and speedy.

406

Do this and that first apple won't be brown and soft by the time you peel the fifth one. Place peeled apples in a basin of cold slightly salted water until you are ready to use or serve them.

407

Keep pared fruit looking bright by pouring a little lemon juice over it.

Here are a few common-sense rules for conserving vitamins, as recommended by Metropolitan Life Insurance Company:

408

1. In cooking vegetables, **raise the temperature** to the boiling point as rapidly as possible. Heat may then be lowered. 2. Do not put foods **through a sieve** while still hot. 3. When cooking, use as little water as possible. 4. **Frozen foods** which are to be served raw should be used immediately after thawing. 5. **Stirring air** into foods while cooking causes vitamin destruction.

409

Many of the **potato's most valuable vitamins and minerals**

are in the skin itself. Don't waste it—eat it!

410

Retain flavor and vitamins and save waste by **boiling carrots** in their skins. Instead of peeling, mash them with salt and pepper.

411

Juices from canned or cooked fruits and vegetables are rich in vitamins, minerals, flavor. Don't ever throw them out! Keep two jars in refrigerator — one for fruit juices, the other for vegetable juices. Each makes a tasty "health cocktail," though you may prefer to blend the vegetable juice with tomato juice.

412

Bread will stay fresh longer, and keep from molding in humid weather, if wrapped in moisture-proof paper and kept in refrigerator in a well-ventilated bread box. Home-made bread should be cooled before storing.

413

Slicing your own bread at home may give you more slices per loaf of bread, and incurs less chance of waste. This is because unsliced bread will stay fresh and moist much longer.

414

Picnic sandwiches will stay fresh twice as long if, after wrapping them, you seal the edges of the wax paper with a hot iron.

415

Who's too proud for **day-old bread**! It's not only cheaper and just as nourishing, but actually better for the teeth and gums, according to experts. Did you know that day-old bread makes **better toast** than fresh bread?

416

Rolls and muffins which have hardened to the "**can't-be-et**" stage are easily freshened. Sprinkle the rolls or muffins with water, place in brown paper bag, and warm in a hot oven for a few moments.

417

Another item for your freezer: Package **bread cubes** and store them away so that they will be ready for use in stuffings and toppings, at a moment's notice.

Stale bread reappears in appetizing freshness when cleverly re-used. Here are 3 ways to use it:

418

Croustades: Cut stale bread in $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch slices. Remove crusts. Scoop out centers, leaving a shell $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick (save crusts and centers for crumbs). Brush with melted butter. Bake in a moderate oven (350°F) 15-20 minutes or until golden brown. Use instead of pastry shells.

419

Croutons: Cut stale bread in $\frac{1}{2}$ inch slices; remove crusts. Cut in $\frac{1}{2}$ inch strips, then cut across

to make cubes. Bake in a slow oven (325°F) 15-20 minutes, stirring occasionally until golden brown. Serve with soup. Save crusts for crumbs.

420

Dry Crumbs: Dry out stale bread in a slow oven. Put in a paper bag and crush into crumbs with a rolling pin. Save in a carton for use as poultry stuffing or to make a crumb blanket for scalloped dishes.

421

Easy helpful tips that give you the **light, flaky pie and pastry crusts** you want: Always have shortening very cold before using. Use about one-third as much shortening as flour. Mix crust dough the day before baking and leave in ice-box. **Roll pastry lightly**, using as little flour as possible. Roll from the center of the dough out and up—not back and forth. If you can, use pastry cloths over the board and rolling pin. These lessen amount of flour needed.

422

Make unbaked pie shells the day before filling and baking. The pastry will be more crisp. You can make up 2-crust pies ahead of time and bake them fresh for evening or on next day.

423

To keep juice in the pie, mix the juicy fruit filling with sugar

and $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoons quick-cooking tapioca.

424

Have quick and thrifty cream pies anytime. Use the flavorful packaged pudding powders. Prepare as directed on the package. And you can vary with nuts, coconut, fruits, or by layering or marbling different flavors.

425

For that extra something in your **apple pie**, sprinkle the sliced apples with a few drops of lemon juice. Dot with butter.

426

Don't risk soggy fruit or pumpkin pies. Just brush the sides and bottom crusts with the beaten white of egg, then sprinkle lightly with flour and add the filling.

427

Keep those **portions of meringue pie** unbroken and fluffy by cutting with a knife dipped in cold water.

428

For that **taste-tantalizing brown** on pie and tart crusts, brush them lightly with milk just before popping them into the oven. A small pastry brush is a wonderful aid for this.

429

It's as easy as pie to get a **flaky upper crust**. Just before putting the pie in the oven, brush top crust lightly with cold water. The result will melt in your mouth.

430

Measure spices carefully and do not be too lavish, for too much spice disguises the delicate flavor of baking. To add spices, sift them with the flour.

431

Save money. **Mix your own biscuit blend** and keep on hand in bowl or jar to use when wanted.

432

For **pipng hot biscuits**, bake enough to go around on oven-proof glass pie plates, and carry right to the table.

433

Make your own pastry mix. Use $4\frac{1}{2}$ cups sifted flour, 2 teaspoons salt, and cut in $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups shortening. Store in bowl or jar until needed. For nine-inch pie shell, use $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups mix, $2\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoons cold water. For two-crust pie, use 3 cups mix and about 5 tablespoons water.

434

Muffins taste richer when the shortening is cut into the flour, as for biscuits.

435

When baking muffins, fill muffin cups $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ full of batter. Fill unused cups $\frac{1}{2}$ full of water to prevent warping of the pan.

436

Your lovely **custard will bake evenly** and not become watery if you place the custard dish in a pan of water.

437

Raisins for cakes and breads will be plump and juicy if soaked in warm water before being added to the batter or dough.

438

Not all in one lump, please! Keep raisins, citrons, currants or other fruits evenly distributed throughout your cakes by dusting with flour before mixing them in to your batter.

439

After serving a cake, keep the unserved portion fresh by covering the cut surface with a strip of waxed paper. Use a few clean toothpicks to punch through the paper and into the cake, holding the paper securely.

440

That beautiful cake won't stick to the pan if you'll grease the one in which it's to be baked with a fat containing no salt. Then lightly dust flour over the fat.

441

To tell if that cake is done, pierce it with an ordinary tooth pick. If it comes out clean, your cake is ready.

442

Keep your precious cake from breaking when you remove it from the pan by cooling in pan 5 to 15 minutes. Then place cake rack on pan and invert quickly.

443

To cut very fresh cake and bread without crumbling, use a

thin-blade knife heated in hot water and then dried.

444

Insure large cakes against sticking to the pan. First cut a piece of paper to fit the bottom of the pan. Use either heavy waxed paper or clean brown paper. Fit this into the pan, then grease the paper well.

445

Zip up your gingerbread and molasses cookies by adding a bit of grated orange peel to the batter.

446

Always bake molasses cake in thick loaves as it burns easily and may scorch if made thin. The pan should be lined with waxed paper.

447

Light-colored molasses can be darkened to make dark gingerbread by adding a teaspoonful of melted chocolate to each cup of molasses.

448

That special cake for junior's party or birthday will be doubly thrilling if you try this delightful stunt: Press an animal cookie cutter lightly into the icing, then fill in the outline with tinted icing in the child's favorite color.

449

For cupcakes and small fancy cakes, grease pans well on bottoms, little or none on sides. Fill only $\frac{1}{2}$ full.

450

Always **sift flour** before measuring, and pile it lightly into the cup without jarring. Otherwise you use too much flour which is wasteful, and the finished product is not as good.

451

When **measuring flour**, level the cup without packing the flour by passing a knife over the top to scrape off the surplus.

452

When the recipe says "dredge with seasoned flour," **don't waste flour**. Put a little in a paper bag, drop in the food and shake together thoroughly. The food will be evenly coated and much less flour will be used.

453

You won't waste flour if you dust it from a **large salt shaker** onto meats, fish, or patties, instead of dipping the food into the flour. It's easier, too.

454

Flour can be substituted for **cornstarch**. Use twice as much.

455

Keep baking powder dry or it will lose its leavening. To measure, use a dry measuring spoon and level measurements.

456

Fuel saver: cook eggs-in-the-shell in lower part of double boiler while cereal is cooking in the top section.

457

Remember, **too much baking powder** is just as disastrous in baking as too little! Be exact.

458

Fill cake pans only half-full of **batter** for best results. Run-over rims are wasteful.

459

Keep ice-box cookie dough in waxed paper or waxed butter cartons in refrigerator. When you want cookies, just slice off as needed and bake fresh cookies.

460

If **chilled ice-box cookie dough** shatters when cut with long sharp knife, let stand at room temperature for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour to soften very slightly, before slicing!

461

When baked, **cookies** should be removed from baking sheet at once. Lift them onto cake rack with a spatula. Do not pile warm cookies or they may stick together.

462

Brush that **colorless glaze** on the top of your fruit cakes with a pastry brush after the cake is absolutely cold.

463

Sugar doughnuts easily and quickly by placing them in a paper bag with a small quantity of powdered sugar and then shaking.

464

Eat cereals. Few foods supply so much nourishment at such low

cost. And cereals are waste-free; a pound of cereal is a pound of pure, edible food.

465

Use cereal to stretch meat. Add crushed cereal flakes to a meat loaf. Or toss cereal flakes with melted margarine and grated cheese for a casserole topping.

466

Cocoa may be used for chocolate flavor in baking although it contains less cocoa butter. To substitute, use 3 level tablespoons of best quality cocoa and 1 extra tablespoon butter for each square of chocolate.

467

Get the most out of tea. Bring water to a full, rolling boil; pour it on the tea. Let it steep 3-5 minutes to extract full flavor. If too strong, dilute with boiling water.

468

For exotic flavor and fragrance, mix a little grated orange rind with your tea. Flavor improves, less sugar is needed.

469

Save the flavor of your coffee by keeping ground coffee tightly covered.

470

Leftover coffee need not be poured down the drain. Freeze it into coffee ice-cubes for your iced coffee or other iced drinks. Same goes for the tea you might ordinarily pour down the sink.

471

For freshest coffee, buy coffee only when you need it—1 pound at a time. Use the right grind for your coffee method and keep coffee-maker clean.

472

Before adding sugar to any stewed fruits, let them boil for ten minutes first. You'll need less sugar.

473

Save the syrups from canned fruits for sauces on hot puddings and desserts.

474

Eliminate waste when measuring molasses by greasing the cup lightly.

475

You need much less sugar to give iced tea or coffee the desired sweetness, if you dissolve sugar in hot water beforehand. None will be wasted at the bottom of the glass or remain dissolved in the iced drink.

476

When you're putting up preserves, don't overlook labelling the jars with the contents and date. Most any stationery store has blank labels which you easily stick on the jars and make whatever notations you wish.

477

To protect jams and jellies, cover hot jelly with $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch melted paraffin as soon as possible after jelly is poured. This will help

prevent spoilage. When cool, cover with tin covers or paste on paper covers. Store jellies in a cool dry place.

478

Avoid cracking jelly glasses and fruit jars by first heating and setting them on a cloth wrung out with hot water. Pour the jelly or fruit in slowly.

479

When **cutting marshmallows**, use a pair of thoroughly clean scissors dipped in hot water to prevent the marshmallows from sticking together.

480

Sticky dates, raisins or figs will come apart easily if placed in your oven for a few minutes. The wrapping paper, too, can easily be removed after this heat treatment.

481

It's easy to make lovely tinted cocoanut. Just fill glass jar half-full of shredded cocoanut. Sprinkle in a few drops of diluted coloring. Cover jar and shake.

482

Keep fudge frosting soft and workable while using, by placing dish in a pan of hot water.

483

Make delicious candy at practically no cost from the rinds of lemons, oranges, grapefruit. Boil these two or three times until water is clear, then once more with

sugar added to taste, and until the rinds are soft and sweet. Kids are "mad" about this candy—adults, too!

484

To frost cake neatly, cover edge of cake plate with triangles of waxed paper. Place cake on these and frost. Then gently draw the papers away, leaving plate clean. For an expert frosting job, spread frosting first from top edge down over sides. Pile remaining frosting on top and spread lightly to edges. To make **wonderful looking cakes**, first frost with a thin layer of icing. This will hold down crumbs and give an even base coat. When set or firm, the final frosting goes on easily and will look extra glamorous.

485

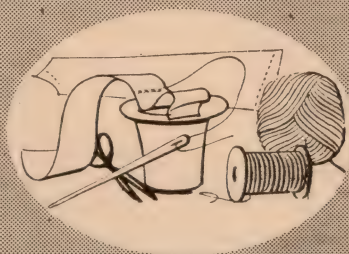
Cut your seasoning job in half by filling a shaker with a mixture of salt and pepper (adjust percentages to taste) so that you can season in one operation and avoid the possibility of forgetting to use either one of these ingredients.

486

When your arms are loaded with grocery bags and boxes, a **small shelf** on a bracket beside the back door will provide a place for unloading and give you a chance to get at keys and the door knob. Such a shelf will also hold milk and other deliveries out of the reach of neighborhood cats and dogs.

NEEDLECRAFT MAGIC

Suggestions - Remaking, Restyling, Repairing



487

To **prolong life** of expensive lingerie, machine stitch over small breaks or worn parts. This "preventive" darn is good for worn spots on sleeves and elbows too.

488

Timely mending is not only thrifty, it is satisfying as well. It's a means of giving a "lift" to **worn clothing**. Keeping your clothes in good condition prolongs their life. Dangling threads, a sagging hem, loose buttons tend to belie that "well-groomed" look you want to achieve.

489

Remember to **shrink new materials** before using them to patch anything that has been dry cleaned or washed. The patch may shrink and cause the surrounding fabric to pucker.

490

Select your dress patterns ac-

cording to bust size, since skirt alterations are the easiest to make. If the skirt design is complicated, the pattern should be selected according to hip size and then altered to the waist.

491

The woman with unusually **large hips** in proportion to her bust will find her dressmaking easier if she selects a pattern that is midway between bust and hips; that is, a pattern a trifle larger in the bust and slightly smaller in the hips.

492

Dress patterns, even though in your size, are made to standard measurements, not your individual own. **For a perfect fitting dress**, do not hesitate to alter the dimensions of the pattern to conform with your individual figure.

493

You'll avoid costly mistakes during dressmaking by making a trial

layout of the pattern on the goods. Check it before you do your actual cutting to make sure you have enough cloth and are not wasting any.

494

Press the sections of the dress pattern before laying them on the goods to be cut. The patterns will be easier to work with and the finished garment will be more accurately cut.

495

Here are just a few re-styling hints that make "new" dresses out of old. 1. Change the old trimming or add some to a plain dress. 2. Trim off the long sleeves. 3. Remove the peplum to change the lines. 4. Change the shade or color by dyeing. 5. Add smart looking pockets. 6. Change the neckline.

496

You can improve the fit of your dress if you have round shoulders by moving the shoulder line further back. The over-erect figure assume a more normal posture if the shoulder line is placed further to the front.

497

Necklines vary with the prevailing styles but the back of the neck of tailored dresses or suits, or dresses with collars, should rest well up to the bone at the back of the neck or on a line with a strand of beads. The neckline is too high if a dress bulges at the

back. Improve the fitting by raising the shoulders and the back.

498

Make it a habit to reinforce those slightly worn elbows, the corners of pockets, loose belt loops, frayed seams, etc., as soon as you notice them. It will save you the necessity of extensive repairs later on when it may be "too late".

499

When that sub-deb outgrows her slacks, bring 'em back alive with this fine fashion trick: Add trouser borders of knitted yarn and sew a matching knitted band around the waist.

500

A single serviceable vestee with three button-on jabots gives you delightful variety at small outlay. Saves other clothing and a fair amount of cleaning costs, too. Why not try the idea?

501

If a favorite dress has become too short to wear "as is," add collar and belt of contrasting fabrics, and sew a band of this fabric several inches wide around the bottom of the skirt. This band should be cut straight for gathered skirts and on the bias for flared skirts.

502

Another pick-me-up for a monotonous old dress is to "glamor-

ize" it with a new panel. This doesn't even put you to the trouble of re-making the dress, since the panel can usually be tacked on. A gay checked fabric may be just what you'd like.

503

Camouflage is a clever way to get new wear out of old clothes. Collars, cuffs and yokes are easy to make and **they work wonders with blouses** that are out of service. Even small holes can be camouflaged by tucking used in front of a blouse or skirt.

504

It is often possible to **make a jumper dress** from a discarded model of good material. Remove sleeves, collar, facings, neck finish and trimmings. A deeper neckline and narrower shoulders often better the appearance.

505

Dress waists may be lengthened by setting-in two-inch bands of contrasting fabric. If a number of bands are used above the waist they should all be equally spaced. The same contrasting material can be used for collars, pockets, outer facings and belts to help disguise any alteration.

506

A dress with too small a waist or hips can be enlarged by setting-in lengthwise bands from shoulder seam to hem, leaving the

same center-front design. Contrasting material may be used for a panel front effect.

507

Touch up that dull costume with a gay chiffon scarf, a sparkling embroidered collar, a stole, bright new buttons, a plaid taffeta dickey or a lace gilet, or add a fanciful apron. A bit of fur trimming will give a tired suit a new lease on life. There is no limit on ingenuity.

508

Pleated skirts will really fall in beautiful folds once you get the right ironing procedure down pat. First iron the pleats flat on the wrong side. When ready to lay and press the pleats, turn the dress or skirt to the right side and, using the stitching as a guide, arrange several pleats in a group. Press them flat. Pressing on right side of all but cotton fabrics requires a pressing cloth. Even dark colored cottons are marked.

509

A simple way to restore a garment to its useful place in the wardrobe is to transfer its basic lines. Do you prefer the stylish sloping shoulders to wide square ones? Simply remove the pads, reshape the shoulders, add one of the new contour belts and presto, you have a new "creation".

510

Turn those **discarded men's shirts into brand-new things** like underwear, sun-suits, pajamas or smocked dresses for children, or stunning blouses for that subdeb of yours. You can avail yourself of the "know-how" by obtaining some of the many pattern books in the market.

511

For best results in mending or darning, be sure to **use the just-right thread**. A thread weaker or stronger than the fabric on which it is used will not give satisfaction. On men's socks, for instance, a darning thread makes a strong, long-lasting repair, while a hard cotton thread makes the mended portion stronger than the sock itself and will soon pull out. Use silk on silk, wool on wool, cotton on cotton, for best results.

512

Is your slip short? Add a band of lace, ruffle of net or eyelet embroidery to lengthen it.

513

To line up the two halves of a row of snaps, sew all the snaps on one side first. Then rub chalk on them and press against the side where the mates must be sewn into place. The chalk will mark the places exactly.

514

Sewing thread is twisted so it must be threaded from the end that ex-

tends from the spool—and then broken off. Do this and **thread won't twist** while sewing. Tailors rub wax on heavy thread or dip it in parafin so it will hold buttons better. Prepare enough thread for many months' sewing by glazing several spools at one time.

515

Rubber bands slipped over spools of thread **keep the ends of the thread from unwinding** and cluttering the sewing basket or drawer.

516

Sewing with a **loose thimble** that constantly falls off the finger is uncomfortable and annoying. Insert a narrow strip of adhesive inside your loose thimble so it won't fall off.

517

Lubricate scissors with "finger oil." When they squeak or bind, rub each blade with the fingers. There's enough natural oil on your hands to give scissors the needed lubrication without risking oil drops on your material.

518

Sharp-pointed scissors are a menace inside your sewing bag. Protect yourself and prevent damage to your bag by sticking the point of the closed scissors into a cork. If you select the right size cork, you can fit your thimble over it for hand safe-keeping. The cork will also serve as a safe receptacle for loose needles and pins.

YOU CAN FIX IT YOURSELF

Essentials All Home Owners Should Know



519

One suggestion for a dry cellar is to be sure the ground around your house slopes slightly away from it for about 10 feet. Watch out for too dense planting of shrubs near the foundation walls. They have a tendency to retain moisture in the soil. If your basement is damp, test for condensation by placing a small mirror against the wall. Should droplets or fog appear on the mirror after a few hours, it means that condensation is the cause of dampness. Ventilation or air movement, by fans, will help solve the problem.

520

A roof, like a hat, is defense against weather; there's trouble ahead if it leaks. So make certain to examine the underside of your roof regularly. Look for tell-tale water stains. And when-

ever you see a pin-point of light, stick a wire through the hole. Then when you're climbing 'round above deck, you can find the hole quickly and make your repairs. A plastic bituminous compound (obtained at your building supply dealer) will stop leaks. But if the leak is pretty bad, it's better to insert either a piece or roll of roofing coated with plastic cement, or a flattened, painted tin can under the shingles and over the hole.

521

If it weren't for the flashing that prevents leaks around the chimney, in roof valleys and at other vulnerable points, your house would be a terrible sieve. Paint it occasionally with red lead, and it should never let you down. But suppose it does become cracked, torn or displaced. Then coat the underside with plastic cement, push

it back into position, nail down the edges and cover the exposed surface (especially the nails) with plastic bituminous compound. Small cracks, of course, can be soldered.

522

Asphalt waterproofing compound and cement will solve most minor **leakage problems in the basement**. Use the asphalt alone to seal cracks where the floor meets the walls. Use a thick coating of asphalt, covered with 2 inches of waterproof cement mortar, if the floor shows damp spots. Water-resistant paints will sometimes seal very slight leaks, but they're not 100% reliable.

523

Areaways should be cleaned out frequently lest they become so clogged with trash that they fill with rain and flood the basement. If you would avoid the unsanitary mess of a **flooded basement or garage**, don't allow refuse, grease or oil to accumulate in floor drains. After removing the strainer, dig out the dirt with an old spoon and a stiff wire. A hot solution of caustic soda will dissolve recalcitrant grease. Rinse the drain thoroughly after using.

524

To prevent **downspouts** from becoming so hopelessly clogged with

leaves that they fill with ice and burst, insert little cages of coarse wire mesh in the gutter outlet. Use a mixture of 1 part cement, 3 parts sand and 1/10 part hydrated lime to seal the cracks in outside walls of stucco, brick or stone. First, chip out the crack and remove crumbs (chip stucco cracks in the shape of an inverted V). Then wet the surface and pack in the mortar. To increase the cement's strength, keep it wet down for three days.

525

If a **plaster wall or ceiling** develops a major structural crack, scrape out the opening to 1/4 inch width, brush off loose particles, wet the surface and pack in new patching plaster. Small shrinkage cracks should be scraped slightly and filled in the same way.

526

Sometimes brick and **stucco walls** are so porous that they leak! You can seal them against moisture with special waterproof paint or with a transparent damp-proofing liquid.

527

If tiny **hair-like cracks** criss-cross your stucco walls, brush into them a workable mixture of Swedish putty.

528

Before putting your windows, mix the putty with paint the color

of the frames. Saves the hours it would take to touch up the putty afterward.

529

A little putty will seal cracks around door and window frames and in outside wood walls. Prime the wood with a coat of paint before you apply it.

530

Don't waste your anger on a sticky window. A thin coating of beeswax on the pulley stiles will make it slide like ice.

531

Setting a pane of glass is as easy as setting a table. After removing the broken glass, chip out the old putty, pull out the glazier's points, scrape the wood clean and apply a liberal coat of linseed oil. Spread a thin layer of putty on the grooves in the sash, press down the new glass and drive in the glazier's points. Then roll new putty into pencil-like strips, press into place, and smooth down. In buying glass, measure all four sides of the opening and deduct not more than $\frac{1}{8}$ inches to allow for expansion and irregularities.

532

Anyone who can tie a knot can replace a **broken or stretched sash cord**. Remove the sash by prying out the top bead, or molding, that holds it in place. (Use a

very sharp chisel for this operation, lest you gouge the wood.) Open the little trap door, or pocket cover, near the bottom of the pulley stile, and retrieve the cord and weight. The new cord should be the same length as the old one was originally. Run it over the pulley, double-knot it at the weight and tie it into the opening at the top of the sash.

533

Your **screens** will stay on the job longer if you keep them well painted. A good spar varnish is tops for unpainted copper or bronze screens; screen enamel for galvanized iron screens.

534

This easy, **quick way to mend torn window screens** makes it unnecessary to endure mosquitoes, flies or moths for even one night. Cut out a piece of screen a little larger than the hole to be mended. Strip off the edges until you have about an inch of loose wires protruding on all sides. Place this patch over the outside of the hole and weave the loose wires into the screen itself.

535

New awnings for your old ones! Re-do shabby canvas in brand new colors, using the special awning paints now available.

The paint also protects the materials.

536

Do you have problem doors?

If a door sticks tight, plane the edges lightly. If it refuses to stay latched, glue a thin strip of wood to the jamb behind the latch plate. If it won't close all the way, either unscrew the hinges from behind the jamb and pull them into the room a trifle, or insert a piece of cardboard between the jamb and the pinside of the hinges (thus forcing the door to slant toward the opening). If it closes too tight, so that the latch rattles back and forth in the latch plate hole, insert cardboard between the jamb and the open side of the hinges. If it bows out in the middle, install a third hinge.

537

A few drops of oil will do wonders for a door lock or latch that says, "I won't work." A leather flap hung over an exposed lock will prevent weather damage.

538

Large, toe-catching, fall-causing cracks in wood floors can be filled with a mixture of sawdust and shellac, or glue.

539

If creaking floor boards drive you mad, use extra-long finishing

nails to fasten them down. If they still creak, then drive a thin wedge of wood between the joints and the sub-flooring, or, on the second floor, between the finish flooring and sub-flooring.

540

Badly discolored spots in wood floors should be sanded thoroughly and bleached with oxalic acid crystals dissolved in hot water.

541

Linoleum will remain in place if you coat the underside with linoleum cement and weight it down. If the linoleum bulges, cut through the bulge with a razor-sharp knife; overlap the two edges, holding the blade against the upper edge; apply cement and weight to both flaps. To patch small holes in linoleum, fill them with a mixture of finely grated cork and liquid glue. Allow thorough drying, then apply a coat of clear varnish over the patchings.

542

Many a damage suit has sprung from the sudden failure of a porch railing overloaded with roosting men and women. As soon as you notice signs of split or rotten wood, replace it; and keep all wood painted. Scrape rust off iron railings and repaint with red lead, followed by ordinary house paint.

543

If the canvas of your **roof deck** is slightly torn, force white lead under the ripped edges and nail it down with closely spaced copper tacks. Then smear on more lead, sandpaper lightly, and apply several coats of lead and oil paint. Large tears are treated in the same way, except that they should be covered with a canvas patch embedded in white lead and tacked on all four sides.

544

Tar-and-gravel roof decks are not built for heavy use. Should the gravel wear off in spots, apply new tar and gravel. Best thing to do if you like to spend long hours on the deck is to cover it with a removable wood grating. Make it of 3-inch boards nailed to two-by-twos, spaced at about 2½ foot intervals.

545

Leaky faucets cost money: they waste water and fuel (more than is generally imagined), and they often cause ugly stains in the basin. Yet they're easy to fix! Shut off the water below the fixture. Unscrew the cap nut at the top of the faucet proper; then the handle. Remove the screw holding the washer to the base of the spindle to which the handle is attached, and replace it with a new washer

of the same size and of good grade. If the leak is around the spindle, remove the cap nut and insert new packing washers.

546

If a **dripping faucet** is robbing you of sleep, tie a string to the faucet long enough to reach the sink. The water will then run quietly down the string until you can fix it the following day.

547

Just before emptying your dish-water, run the hot water for a few moments to warm the pipes and prevent the **grease in your dish-water** from sticking to them and congealing. Clogged drainpipes will seldom annoy you if you do this regularly. **Keep sinks, drains, and tubs free of grease** and disagreeable odors by pouring ordinary hot salt water through them once or twice a week.

548

The "**plumber's friend**" is a friend indeed though it is nothing more than a big, bell-shaped rubber suction cup with a wood handle. Try it when your sink drain clogs. Run a little water into the sink, place the cup over the drain and pump the handle up and down. It will probably do the trick. If it doesn't, set a pail under the U-shaped trap beneath

the sink, unscrew the cleanout plug at the bottom of the "U," and dig out the accumulated grease with a bent wire. A "plumber's friend" is also usually all you need to clean out **clogged water closets**. Just place it over the outlet and pump it up and down. In stubborn cases, borrow a coil spring, steel auger, or "snake." Screw the snake down the outlet until you can either pull out the obstruction or bore right through

549

Beware that gaping crack around **the rim of the bathtub**; water splashed through it will wreck the ceiling on the floor below. Fill it with tile cement or plastic molding specially made for the job.

550

One thing to remember when **working on plumbing fixtures**: microbes breed where metal surfaces are scratched. Use a screwdriver with a sharp, square edge, and always use a smooth-paved monkey wrench.

551

Water pipes that aren't too solidly frozen can often be thawed this way: Turn the faucets upside down with a wrench or pliers. Then pour in a gallon or so of boiling water containing as much salt as will dissolve in it.

552

Call them what you will, **light plugs are easy to rewire**. But to do the job right, you must bend each wire around one of the prongs before attaching it to the adjacent screw. This reduces the pulling strain on the contacts. Never let the bare wires touch.

553

Don't get caught short in the dark! Tape a spare fuse inside the door of the **fusebox** so that you'll have it available in the dark and at the time the emergency occurs.

554

Battery-operated **doorbells** have a nasty habit of breaking down just when you're having a party. There's no need to call in an electrician. If the bell is weak, the batteries require replacement — and dry cells are best. If the trouble continues even after that, look for loose connections, which should be tightened — or for a broken wire, which should be spliced. Sometimes the contact points in the push-button become dirty and corroded — clean them with emery paper.

555

Want to save over \$100? If your house needs painting (it should be done over every three to five years), do it yourself. Here

are a few tricks to guide you: Begin at the upper right corners of the house (unless you're lefthanded) and finish each day's work at a corner or window to avoid laps. Paint the west and north sides in the morning; east and south sides in the afternoon. Remove shutters before painting the walls. Never paint on a wet or even a damp surface; and always scrape blistered, peeled and cracked surfaces. Best time to paint is either in the spring or fall, when insects are scarce. Allow 3 to 7 days for paint to dry before applying another coat. Two coats are best on an already finished surface. It's usually hard to tell whether **newly mixed paint will match when dry**. One quick easy way to foretell the actual shade is to paint a sample brush-stroke on a piece of tin, then dry it quickly in the oven or on the radiator.

556

Set a pail of water inside a freshly painted room and the **odor will vanish** sooner.

557

A strong arm and plenty of sandpaper will take the roughness out of **chipped and scratched paint**, varnish and shellac. Should you weary of the work, use a liquid solvent (prepared paint remover) on paint and varnish; denatured

alcohol on shellac. A new finish will look better and last longer if it is applied on a smooth, firm, dry base.

558

If you want to use your **stairway** while painting it, try this: Do every other step first. Let these dry before doing the rest of the stairway.

559

When a new paint starts to **flake**, it's a sign that there are too many coats of paint underneath. To prevent this always scrape the previous old coats of paint down to the plaster before beginning the new paint job.

560

To do the best job when **re-papering** a wall, apply a thin coat of shellac to the old paper to keep the marks from appearing on the new.

561

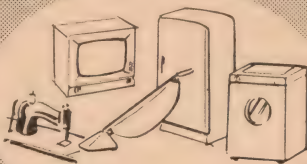
Preserve your tools by keeping moisture away. A piece of charcoal in the tool box will help to absorb moisture and prevent rust.

562

Make the repair job easier by **rubbing with soap the nails and screws** you are planning to use for the job. They will go in more easily.

GENERAL HOUSEHOLD AIDS

Getting Most From Appliances, Utensils, Etc.



563

If your television receiver is to be connected to an outside antenna, attention should be given to the location of the antenna lead-in and power outlet, to prevent excessive length of these connector leads and subsequent reduction of reception.

564

Prevent eyestrain while watching television by not turning off all the lights in the room. Leave at least one burning outside the field of vision.

565

When selecting the location for your new TV set, keep the following factors in mind: **Avoid eyestrain** by making sure that no direct light from window or lamp falls on the screen. Place the cabinet several inches away from the wall to permit ventilation and to improve sound reproduction qualities.

566

Electric Dishwashers. Although a dishwasher is self-cleaning, watch out for sediment. If it appears, pour two cups of vinegar through the filler opening and operate for about five minutes and follow with several hot water rinses.

567

Never slam the door of your refrigerator — slamming loosens joints and operating parts, hastens the need for repair bills. Don't yank out the ice-cube trays. Treat them gently to avoid loosening or jolting the delicate mechanisms. To assure food freshness, **cover everything in the refrigerator except raw meats and eggs. Don't pack the shelves too tightly — perfect refrigeration depends on free circulation of air inside the compartment. Always wipe up spilled food immediately.** Prevents corrosion.

568

Freshen the inside of your refrigerator once a week by using a weak solution of baking soda or borax. Wipe the walls thoroughly—also the ice trays. To keep a refrigerator new-looking, clean it once a month, at least. Wash quickly with lukewarm solution of bicarbonate of soda or borax. Wash ice tray surface occasionally with boiling water and a little bicarbonate of soda added.

569

Defrost automatic refrigerators about every ten days or as soon as frost on the unit is $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick. After defrosting, wash the ice-trays, remove shelves and clean the inside with cool water to which a little baking soda has been added.

570

Give drain pipe in iced refrigerator special attention. Pour a strong solution of washing soda and water down the drain, then use a long brush to remove accumulated slime and dirt. Occasionally, make a solution of baking soda and cold water and pour it over the cake of ice.

571

Keep acid foods out of direct contact with the enamel finish of your refrigerator, unless you know for a fact that it's acid-resistant. Tomatoes, lemons and vinegar eat away that enamel.

572

To make ice last longest, keep the compartment filled, the doors closed tightly and opened as few times as possible.

573

To keep that "second hand" look off your kitchen range, don't let acid foods such as lemons, tomatoes, and vinegars touch the enamel unless you know the enamel is acid-resistant. Wipe up spilled foods at once. After using the oven, let it cool, then clean with mild scouring powder if food has spattered.

574

When the range oven and broiler are heavily spattered with grease, put a shallow dish filled with ammonia in each compartment, and leave it in the closed oven overnight. The ammonia fumes help loosen the grease from the porcelain and make thorough cleaning that much easier.

575

After using the broiler, let it cool, then remove solid fat with a wooden spoon. Remove grease from rack and pan with paper towels. Wash in hot soapsuds; rinse with hot water; dry thoroughly.

576

Never wash the enameled surfaces of your range while they are hot, or "crazing" and cracking will result.

577

Remove burners occasionally from not-so-modern gas stoves and wash in hot soapsuds. Then rinse, drain and dry. Use a wire to clean clogged holes. Modern burners need only to be wiped with a damp cloth. If cast iron burners are in bad shape, boil them in a solution of washing soda and water.

578

If food boils over onto the open-type elements of an electric stove, it can be burned off, using high heat. Cool, then blow out charred particles (use flat tool attachment of vacuum cleaner if you have one). Never poke or brush an open-type unit. Closed-type units may be brushed after burning off the food.

579

When food is fried on a gas range, **popping grease** frequently spatters burners not in use. Pie pans placed upside down over unlit burners protect them and are easily cleaned.

580

Fill washing machine to the water line. Too much water cuts down efficiency and may damage the mechanism. Too little will not get your clothes clean. Use no more than the recommended amounts of soap and water softeners. **Too much sudsing** cuts down cleansing. **Don't overload the machine**—follow instructions. **Don't overwork the washer.** Run it

only as long as is actually necessary.

581

Guard your rubber wringer rolls. Remove pressure the moment you are through washing. Wash the rolls with warm soapsuds, then rinse and dry.

582

Sharp buttons and buckles should be folded under, before running through the wringer.

583

After each use, **drain the washer** immediately. Remove lint from washer drain and strainer. Wash interior with warm soapsuds, rinse thoroughly, wipe the whole washer dry. Dry the cord and wind on hooks. Leave cover of washer ajar. Lubricate machine from time to time according to the manufacturer's directions.

584

Don't expect your washing machine to take greasy old work overalls and turn them out spotless. **Soak extra-dirty clothes** for a while in good soap solution and make it easier for the machine to do its job.

585

Electric Ironer. To keep the "shoe" of the ironer clean, rub it with a damp cloth and wipe it dry after it has cooled. If you add a pinch of salt to the starch solution, it will prevent the starch from sticking to the ironer.

586

Rejuvenate that old sewing machine by giving it a thorough cleaning and lubrication. **First**, move it near a radiator or stove to get it warm. **Then** clean every moving part with kerosene. Wipe off the old, dry oil that oozes out. When the parts have been cleansed throughout, apply a little lubricating oil then **stitch through a blotter** several times to soak up the excess and protect your fabric against stain.

587

Your sewing machine **needle won't stick** when plastic materials, such as those in raincoats, are being sewed, if you stitch a strip of waxed paper into the seam. When the sewing is completed the paper is easily torn off, leaving the seam unmarred.

588

Keeping a little whetstone handy can save those **blunted sewing machine needles**. The curled point, which is usually caused by pulling the material backward on the machine too rapidly, can be sharpened off with a few strokes on the stone. The needle can then be used for heavier sewing.

589

To remove "coffee" film from **thermos bottle**, clean frequently by pouring in 1 tablespoon raw rice and cup of warm water. Shake well, rinse. Avoid odor absorption in cork by covering with waxed or cellophane paper each time used.

590

Working housewives or housewives who want leisure, yet desire to serve tasty meals on time, have learned to plan entire oven meals **cooked by clock control**. Try this: set clock which automatically lights the open burner at time a meal should start cooking. The clock automatically controls turning off the heat when the meal is done. Since the clock can be set hours ahead of time, the cook can leave the kitchen and go shopping, visiting friends, work at her job, while the mechanical servant tends to the cooking.

591

Keep the vacuum cleaner bag clean by emptying it after each use. Every 2 months, brush the bag inside and out. **Never** wash it.

592

Use your vacuum cleaner with the best **adjustment of the nozzle** for cleaning efficiency. Your manufacturer's instruction booklet tells you exactly what this is. Read it carefully. In cleaning, **be sure the brush bristles actually touch the rug**. If it works poorly, it may need a new brush or an adjustment of the old one.

593

Connecting cords are costly to replace. During cleaning, **release only the required length**. Don't drag yours across the room or chafe it against furniture. Keep

it properly coiled on handle when cleaner is stored. When disconnecting turn off the current first, then grasp the plug. Don't yank on the cord.

594

Store your vacuum cleaner in a cool, dry place so that metal and rubber parts won't be damaged.

595

Never use cleaner to pick up hairpins, tacks, pins, pieces of glass, or other **hard or sharp articles**. They may puncture dust bag.

596

Remove revolving cylinders and brushes once a week for cleaning. Don't let them get clogged with threads, lint or hair.

597

Lubricate the cleaner as directed by the manufacturer. Don't over-lubricate or under-lubricate. Each is equally harmful.

598

To remove thread that winds around the rotating brush in a vacuum cleaner, run a pair of scissors lengthwise through the bristles and clip the thread; then brush them off.

599

Operate the cleaner slowly for best results. Follow a straight line, working lengthwise of the rug. Go over each section twice or more to remove all embedded dirt.

600

Your carpet sweeper. Don't bear down too hard on the handle; exert **just enough pressure** for the brush to hug the carpet, yet still roll freely.

601

If it's a ball-bearing sweeper, put a drop of oil occasionally on each of the **bearings**.

602

Empty the carpet sweeper pan after each use. Over-stuffing accounts for the dirt and lint that drops back to floor.

603

Clean the sweeper brush once a week. Cut threads and hair with scissors and comb them out. If brush is greasy, clean with a non-inflammable cleaning fluid.

604

Garbage and trash cans with their many inconveniences can be eliminated by the use of a small, compact gas or electric **incinerator**. These home size units can be installed in the basement, utility room or kitchen.

605

Well-scoured coffee pots make the best-flavored coffee. Rancid-tasting coffee is often the result of tiny particles of old coffee which cling to the inside surface. Wash thoroughly in clean hot soapsuds, using a small brush to get into all crevices. Rinse thoroughly in clear, hot water. Dry. Air between uses.

606

If yours is a glass coffee-maker, be sure to rinse out the filter cloth thoroughly with cold water after each use. When not in use, keep the cloth in a glass of cold water to which a pinch of soda is added. Store in refrigerator if possible; you'll need fewer replacements.

607

To minimize lime deposits in teakettle, empty and dry it at the end of every day. A light coating of lime can be removed by boiling a vinegar solution in the kettle for ten minutes. Then wash, rinse, dry. Repeat at intervals. Same vinegar solution can be used again and again.

608

Never immerse pressing iron in water. Wipe with a damp cloth and dry when cool.

609

Replace iron board cover you have laundered while still damp. It will shrink tight and smooth on board while it dries.

610

If your pressing iron has a heat-control gadget, sort materials according to the temperatures required and start with the lowest heat first.

611

If pressing iron has no heat-control device, remove the plug when iron is hot enough for pressing. Attach cord again as additional heat is needed. This saves elec-

tricity and prevents over-heating, scorching.

612

Cords and Plugs. If plug does not make contact at outlet, bend prongs slightly outward. Avoid overloading outlets on any one circuit. To avoid short circuits check the wattage capacity in your community.

613

Burned starch often sticks to the sole plate of the pressing iron, making it hard to work with and using up extra current and "elbow grease." Let the iron cool, then run it over a waxed paper (paraffin dislodges starch); finally wipe clean with a soft cloth. If necessary, soften starch with beeswax, then scrub with soapsuds or mild scouring powder, using very little water.

614

If you want to find out whether your bathroom scale is telling you the truth, test its accuracy by weighing a 5 or 10 pound bag of flour or sugar on it.

615

Hang sheets and other linens straight on clothesline. They will iron in much less time, save work and electricity too.

616

Don't let crumbs collect in your electric toaster, or a short circuit may result. Use a soft brush to remove them. Never thump the toaster or shake it violently—you'll damage the fine wires.

617

Never immerse a toaster in water. Just wipe the outside with a soft cloth wrung out in soapsuds. Rinse in the same way. Polish dry.

618

For longer, better life out of your electric mixer, follow manufacturer's directions for oiling the motor; detach beater after using, and dry thoroughly; wipe off the housing and stand with a cloth wrung out of soapsuds, rinsing in the same way, drying thoroughly.

619

Waffle-bakers won't break down or need replacement if you remember to practice these musts: **1.** After cooling, wipe off outside of baker with soft cloth wrung out of soapsuds. Rinse in the same way. Polish dry. **2.** If necessary, clean grids with stiff brush. **3.** Use absorbent paper to remove excess grease from grids. **4.** Leave the baker **open** to cool.

620

If you have trouble with **waffles sticking** and you are sure the temperature is right, it may be that the recipe doesn't call for enough fat. Try adding one or two extra tablespoonfuls.

621

Aluminum cooking utensils will give you a lot more satisfactory use if you avoid using too much heat since excessive heat often

bulges the bottoms. Gas flame should just touch the bottom and not flare up around the sides. High heat on electric ranges should be used sparingly. Switch to medium and reduce to low as soon as cooking temperature has been reached.

622

Hot, soapy water is all that is usually necessary **to clean aluminum**, plus a good rinse in scalding water. Discoloration, caused by minerals in food or water, can be removed in this way: Dissolve 2 tablespoonfuls of cream of tartar in each quart of water. Boil this solution in the discolored utensil 5 to 8 minutes. Then wash, rinse and dry. Cleaning aluminum utensils thoroughly after each use prevents pitting of the surface.

623

Aluminum pans don't like their faces scrubbed with harsh alkaline soaps and cleaning powders; these "eat" away the aluminum surface. Pots enjoy being used for boiling rhubarb, tomatoes, or other acid foods which give them "the skin you love to touch" and look at.

624

Whenever an aluminum double boiler or steamer is used, put $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of cream of tartar or vinegar in the water in the lower compartment. This will **prevent discoloration**.

625

Take pan from broiler as soon as food is removed, so the grease won't bake on and **broiler will be easier to clean.**

626

Pick up the marbles (two or three of them) and put them into your double boiler before turning on the fire. If water gets dangerously low, the marbles will bang away like mad. But you'll **save the bottom of your boiler** from burning out.

627

Stubborn food burns on enamel pans ask for a cleaning solution of weak soda and water. (Boiling vinegar and water in a scorched pan will also help remove these stains.)

628

Don't scour tin utensils, it wears away the thin finish. To clean, wash in sudsy water and dry thoroughly. Don't remove discoloration because you will remove more tin than blemish. Besides, darkened tin absorbs heat more rapidly than shiny tin.

629

To remove rust from the corners of cake tins that have been in use for a long time, dip a raw potato in cleaning powder and scour.

630

Stainless steel needs only soap and water for ordinary cleaning

but mild scouring powder may be used. After drying, rub with a soft cloth for luster.

631

Ironware should be washed in hot soapsuds and thoroughly rinsed. A little baking soda added to the last rinse water will help retard rusting. Dry thoroughly before putting away. If foods stick, soak utensil in hot water to which a little washing soda has been added. Boil if necessary. Then wash, using scouring powder, and brush if necessary. Rinse and dry.

632

Even sturdy metal pots may **warp or buckle** if suddenly chilled or drawn from the refrigerator and then placed on a hot stove. Start cooking over low heat, then increase as the pot is "de-chilled."

633

Hold the **lemon squeezer, egg beater, grater** or wire potato masher under the faucet after using. Then wash thoroughly and wipe dry. Don't give them a chance to rust or tarnish by putting off the washing chore.

634

Clean **woodenware** immediately after use. Never immerse in water or soak. Use as little water as possible. Keep away from heat. Never place woodenware in the refrigerator. If roughened, smooth with sandpaper. Never polish, wax or varnish.

635

A splendid way to ruin, permanently, the sharpness of a kitchen knife is to put the blade into a flame. **Don't do it!** It impairs the temper of the steel, makes it impossible to keep the blade sharp thereafter.

636

Fish odors from cooking utensils will vanish quickly if you add two or three tablespoons of ammonia to the dishwasher.

637

Hang **connecting cords** for frequently used small electrical appliances over a wood block or across two coat hooks placed about 6 inches apart.

638

It's just not fun to get out of a warm bed into a cold bathroom any morning. And yet, for one reason or another, bathrooms in many homes are not too warm. A **gas or electric space heater** keeps the bathroom comfortably warm, and it is perfectly safe to use. It can be ordered in a finish to match bathroom fixtures.

639

Sharpen scissors by cutting a piece of sandpaper, once or twice, with them.

640

If you're tired of **fumbling for the light switch** or string in the dark, try painting them with lum-

inous paint. The tell-tale glow will make it a cinch to switch the lights on without groping all over the room.

641

Did you know that a siphon bottle of seltzer makes an excellent **fire extinguisher** to have at hand? It does.

642

For smooth running and lightning speed, **oil that typewriter**. First, the bearings at each end of the cylinder; then, the little roller that engages the ratchet wheel to lock the lines in position; finally all ribbon-spool shafts and gear shafts.

643

Type-cleaning fluid is for type only. Protect the rest of the machine by **placing paper under the type** to prevent the dirt and fluid from falling into the machine. Dry the type with a rag, too, before removing the paper.

644

Before erasing, slide the carriage clear to one side. Those rubber erasings, dropping down inside, can harm the mechanism.

645

Don't yank the paper out of the **typewriter**. Roll it out. Yanking puts a shine on the roller which causes the paper to slip and necessitates servicing the machine.

NEW USES FOR OLD THINGS

Ways To Make Your Old Things Look Like New



646

Rips in curtains, underwear, upholstery, clothing, etc., can often be mended almost invisibly by placing mending fabric tape on the reverse side; shiny side of the mending tape face down and pressing with a hot iron. This type of tape can be purchased at almost any five and ten cent store.

647

If your fine curtains develop a hole, you can do a neat job of "invisible mending" by covering the hole with a piece of white paper then running back and forth under the sewing machine needle. After laundering the curtain the paper will have been soaked away and the darning will be hard to detect.

648

Tears in net curtains can be mended almost invisibly by applying a thin coat of colorless nail

polish to the tear and pressing the frayed edges together with fingers until the polish dries. Curtains so mended should not be stretched after laundering.

649

Here's new use for old sheets and pillow cases. It's especially useful when a member of your family is confined to bed with a cold. Cut them into large squares and stitch them onto the top sheet and you'll have a pocket for hankies or tissues.

650

Salvage wool from old sweaters. Rip the discarded sweater and rewind the wool around the back of a chair. Knot starting-and-ending threads together, then tie a little thread around back of chair. Using soapy water, rinse thoroughly, and all the kinks will be removed. You're ready to start knitting with wool yarn that costs you nothing.

651

When replacing your worn linoleum or carpeting, be sure to save "leftovers". They will come in very handy if a tear should develop later on.

652

An old table oilcloth can serve many new uses. Use pinking scissors to cut out a number of place mats. Or, trim off worn corners to make a smaller cover for another table. Or, cut bibs for the children. Or, make potholders pockets to hang on kitchen wall.

653

There's life in that old damask tablecloth yet! With a new coat of dye, it may well turn into a cloth and napkins for your bridge table. Or make it into place mats "dressed up" with fiberglass material, fringe or contrasting ruffle.

654

Left-over cretonne or other substantial material make excellent "long sleeve" protectors when working in the kitchen. Wrap at a slant, sew snaps on ends.

655

Give that worn or badly soiled slip cover a new look! Add an appliqued border and motif on chair back, cut from a printed fabric used to make a new cover for the cushion. Or salvage them to dress up shabby or ugly picture frames, especially for the children's rooms.

656

When bed sheet starts wearing out in middle, slit it lengthwise, sew the two former selvedge edges together and run a hem around new rough edges.

657

If you have two or three worn-out blankets, stitch them together and cover with a cotton print. You will then have a nice warm, new comforter.

658

Rip old cotton stockings down the seam and use them as dust-cloths. You'll find them excellent—and lintless.

659

If your oiled silk shower curtains are worn out, convert the usable parts into waterproof aprons or make-up capes. Or, to cover porch pillows.

660

Has your wooden waste basket or fiberboard hamper acquired a "tired" look? A fresh coat of paint or varnish and a few decalomania will give new zest to these accessories.

661

Old but laundered socks, pulled over shoes not in use, or when they are packed for travel, will keep them like new and separated from other packed items.

662

A retired curtain rod makes a handy shoe rack. Just tack it on the closet door, and hang the shoes by their heels on it.

663

An umbrella frame stripped of cover, makes a good rack on which to dry small articles such as hankies, gloves, etc.; to avoid danger of rust, spread over clean white cloth first.

664

Small holes in aluminum pot can be mended at home. Get copper or aluminum rivets 1/16" in diameter, 1/8" long. Force rivet through from the inside, enlarging hole if necessary. Then rest head of the rivet on a hard metal surface and hammer the other end until hole has been closed.

665

If aluminum ware has warped. place a wooden block on bulge and hammer back to shape.

666

Most types of crockery, except glass or highly vitrified grades of porcelain, can be successfully mended if broken (but not shattered). There are inexpensive plastic adhesives at your hardware store. Apply the glue to both broken surfaces, wait until the adhesive is tacky, then press tightly together. Keep together for ten or

twelve hours with strong rubber bands or cord. When mended, the crockery will withstand soaking — and usually defy detection.

667

When you crack a favorite dish or plate, put it in a pan of milk and boil it for 45 minutes. Not only will the crack usually disappear — the dish will actually become stronger.

668

You can also mend a broken dish with alum. Melt the powdered alum in a spoon over a flame, then quickly rub it over the edges of the two pieces. Press these together and allow to dry. The mending will be strong and durable.

669

In mending broken china or wooden articles, adhesive plaster will conveniently hold the pieces in place until the glue or cement hardens.

670

When glassware develops nicks on the edges, rub them smooth again with fine sandpaper.

671

To stop leaks in vases or bric-a-brack, pour melted paraffin over the leaky spot and let it harden.

672

Give that old picture frame a

coat of antique finish and you have an interesting background for knick-knacks and small art objects, or a setting for flower pots and vases.

673

Plaster ornaments which look ready for the scrap-heap should be dipped into a solution of starch and water. When dry, brush off the excess starch and your old plaster vases, statuettes and busts are "new" again.

674

Old powder puffs are handy for cleaning and polishing silverware. They won't scratch the delicate metal.

675

Worn-out toothbrushes are just the thing for scrubbing jewelry, applying cleaner to white buck shoes, cleaning the type on your portable, scrubbing the leaves on your plant.

676

Soak neglected paint brushes in hot vinegar to clean and make them as pliable as new.

677

Take that old broom you were just about to throw out, cut the bristles away, then tie an old felt hat (or scrap of flannel or carpet) around the "business end"—and, you've got a perfectly handy floor polisher.

678

To get along without a rubber hot water bottle, put a small bag of salt into a skillet and heat. Then wrap the bag in closely woven cloth. It will hold the heat for a long time.

679

If that replacement for your **glass coffee maker** does not fit perfectly or provide a vacuum seal, a strip of rubber tape will enlarge the rubber ring and "seal the deal."

680

Don't throw away that bulb that has suddenly gone out. It may have become loose or perhaps the filament has temporarily disconnected. A tightening or light tap on the glass may get it going again.

681

Save small scraps of hand soap until you have a cupful. Add quart of boiling water and simmer over low heat, stirring occasionally until every scrap is melted. Pour into container, cool, and cover. Now you have a soap jelly for many usages. Whip it into a stiff lather for shampooing upholstery or small rugs or washing painted walls, painted furniture, woodwork. Dissolve it in lukewarm water for washing lingerie. Try it as a shampoo for your hair. You'll never want to be without it again.

GAS, ELECTRIC and TELEPHONE

Ways and Means To Save On These Utilities



682

If you have a home freezer, plan to take out the food you'll need for a whole day at one time. Opening a freezer many times during the day will increase the operating costs.

683

To speed up the cooking process, use the deep-well cooker of an electric range or a pressure cooker to cook tougher cuts of meat, cereals, dried fruits, soups and stews.

684

Plan menus ahead so that when the stove is going, several items can be baked or cooked at one time.

685

The breeze from an open window next to the gas stove will blow the heat from under the pan and delay the cooking—and increase your bill.

686

Use one high-wattage bulb in place of several smaller ones. (A

100-watt bulb gives 50% more light than four 25-watt bulbs, yet uses the same amount of current.)

687

When dusting, don't overlook the light bulbs. So many housewives fail to realize that a two-second swipe with a cloth over a dusty bulb can increase your light as much as 50%. (While you're at it, wipe off the parchment shades, inside and out, with a damp cloth.)

688

When you leave a room for more than five minutes, make a habit of switching off the lights.

689

If you spend much time working in the basement, spare your eyes by whitewashing the walls so they will reflect more light. If the joists overhead are exposed, you can increase the amount of illumination from the ceiling fixture without changing to a larger bulb. Simply nail several white-painted boards or cardboard to the joists around the base of the fixture.

690

Replace dark shade and shade linings with light, transparent ones.

691

When a room comes due for repainting, use white, or a light pastel shade, which requires far less artificial lighting than dark colored walls.

692

Place your refrigerator as far as possible from the kitchen range, stove, or other heat-using appliance. Have an air space of several inches between the back of the refrigerator cabinet and the wall. The saving in fuel consumption may be worth the trouble of moving the refrigerator, if it does not entail unusual difficulty.

693

Foods placed in the refrigerator while still hot use up extra gas or electric current. Reason: More power needed to lower the extra heat. If yours is an automatic refrigerator, you'll also have to defrost it more often because of the moisture rising from the cooling food.

694

Off for the week-end? Save gas or electricity (and the food) by turning the cold control of refrigerator down to lowest operating point — but not to "defrosting."

695

Make this simple test: Close the door of your refrigerator on a slip

of paper. If it pulls out easily, you are wasting electricity or gas. Have the door strip replaced at once.

696

Don't trust to memory—consult the directory for telephone numbers. Wrong guesses often cost a dime apiece or more.

697

When shopping by telephone, first prepare a "want list" to save time in giving orders, as well as call-backs for suddenly remembered something elses.

698

You pay for overtime when making long-distance calls. You can shorten the minutes needed by simply first writing down a list of the subjects you want to discuss. This eliminates hemming-and-hawing and forgetting, and saves money.

699

When making long-distance telephone calls, place an "hour-glass" egg-timer near your phone. It operates on a three-minute schedule, and will warn you exactly when your three minutes are up.

700

Save on your long-distance toll charges by making calls "**person-to-person.**" If the party you wish to contact is not available, you will not be charged for the call—whereas you will be charged if the call is "station-to-station."

701

Cooking prunes for breakfast? Before retiring at night, set pot of prunes and water over pilot light on stove, making sure the lid is on snugly. The prunes will be nicely stewed and ready to eat when you get up in the morning, and it won't cost an extra penny to cook them!

702

For pilot light efficiency, regulate the height of flame until it is blue with just a trace of yellow at tip. Keep assembly clean.

703

Use flat-bottomed pans the same size or larger than the burner or heating element. Pans that are too small simply waste heat.

704

Be sure gas burner holes are entirely open. Stiff wire will usually keep them that way. Yellow flames (a symptom of clogged burner holes) are **not** hot flames. Call gas company for service man to adjust burner if yellow flames persist.

705

It takes less time and fuel to cook dried fruits, beans, and certain cereals if you first soak them for several hours.

706

Halving your large potatoes before baking them will lessen fuel consumption.

707

So will rinsing potatoes in hot water, after they've been pared and washed for boiling. This warms the spuds and requires less time for water to boil.

708

When food is to be broiled, remove it from the refrigerator well ahead of time and it will broil faster than if put into the broiler while still chilled.

709

If possible, cook vegetables in the bottom of the **double boiler** while you make the cream sauce for them in the upper pan. Saves fuel, saves time.

710

Cooking can be finished with heat stored in the gas or electric oven, **after the current has been turned off.**

711

Don't heat a whole teakettle of water when you need only 2 cups.

712

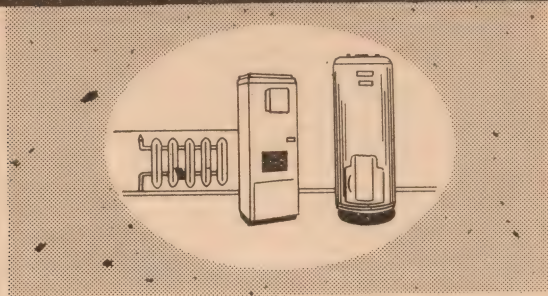
No need to wait and wait for the water in the double boiler to come to a boil. A little **salt in the water** will bring it to a boil in a jiffy.

713

Remove sediment from your teakettle. The water will heat faster, consume less fuel.

MORE HEAT FROM LESS FUEL

Ways and Means To Cut Down on Fuel Bills



714

To insure maximum heat from your radiators, keep them clean. The best way to clean a radiator is to hang a damp cloth behind it and use a vacuum cleaner as a blower in front. The dust will be blown into the damp cloth.

715

When radiators make a knocking noise, it means a defective valve is causing air pockets. Keep hand valves completely open or completely closed to prevent this.

716

Gas Leak Test: To spot the exact location of a gas leak in a pipe, lather the area with soapy water. Escaping gas will cause soapy liquid to bubble and reveal the damaged areas. **To plug a Gas Leak:** To make a temporary plug, moisten a cake of soap and press over the spot. When the soap hardens it will effectively close the leak until the gasman comes.

717

To obtain best results from any heating plant, be sure it is installed correctly. If it is a hot air system, the size and location of the various hot air ducts must be figured correctly. The cold air return ducts must have at least as much capacity as the total capacity of the hot air ducts and, preferably, 10% additional capacity. If it is a steam or hot water system, the capacity of the radiators must be correct for the size of the house and the heating plant must be of sufficient capacity to supply that much radiation.

718

One authority points out that "leaky" doors, windows and cracks account for almost $\frac{1}{3}$ the loss of heat from a house. Storm windows, storm doors, weatherstripping and caulking will cut this waste—in some cases save you up to 20% of the fuel needed for heat.

719

To find out if weatherstripping on a door is free from air leaks, move a lighted match slowly along the opening between the door and jamb. The flame will flicker if outside air is entering the house.

720

Thermostat: Turn the thermostat up at least 3° above room temperature when burner stops. Frequently it won't operate unless it is regulated in this way.

721

Try this before calling for help: **Remove the cover from the thermostat** and blow away any dust present. Then move a small card back and forth between the points. If this doesn't work, it's a job for the repair man.

722

Take it from the leading heating authorities: the thermostat on hot water heater should invariably be set below 140° F., if you want to reduce rusting (and heat loss) to an amazing degree.

723

Keep it at 70! You can save as much as 15% if your thermostat is set at 70 degrees instead of 75. The lower temperature is more healthful, too.

724

If you can close off a little-used room and not heat it, you'll cut your fuel needs quite a bit. Such rooms may be sealed off so that little heat escapes into them, and

little cold air emerges from them. It's a good fuel-saving rule to close off the room that is hardest to heat.

725

There are few drafts in a house that has its door-frames and window-frames caulked with wood putty compounds, the mail slots and door buttons covered with strips of old leather or beaver board.

726

You can save on fuel consumption by pulling down window shades at dusk and leaving them down until morning. The air pocket between the window and shade forms a fair insulator. Conversely, in summertime, drawn window shades help keep your house cool.

727

You'll have cold feet when in your first-floor rooms if your **basement is cold**. For maximum warmth, finish the basement ceiling, or, if your heating man approves, take the insulation off the heating pipes for added heat in the basement.

728

Attached garages require less heat than house interiors do. A 40° temperature is adequate and better for your car.

729

In a single recent year, 50,000 home-owners lost \$30,000,000 worth of homes through fires caused by defective heating plants.

Sure signs of sabotage in your heating plant are the twin symbols of waste — **black smoke and very hot chimney gases.** If your heating plant isn't functioning at least 70%-75% efficiency and economy, a competent service man will save you a lot of grief — and money.

730

"If your basement runs a fever," warns a leading furnace company, **"your furnace is sick."** One of the surest signs of an ailing furnace is a hot furnace room. You'll find symptoms of it in such details as browned warm-air ducts, scorched floor joints above the furnace. They are dangerous indications. The thing to do is not to guess. **Know for sure.** Call in your local heating specialist. His "prescription" may cost little and save much in fuel cost and serious accident.

731

No matter what fuel you use in your heating plant, learn how to **fire it correctly in your own heating plant** to get the best results. Consult with your dealer — he is your friend and can help you be a more efficient fireman.

732

Check your registers or duct grilles: the dust which often collects these can prevent warm air from flowing freely throughout your rooms.

733

Sealing the spaces between boiler

sections is essential for economical heating. Leaks allow cold air to be drawn into the boiler during its operation, which cools the sections and promotes fuel waste. This is a job for your heating man.

734

The flame in your burner is often a clue to how the machine is operating. Have your oil burner service man demonstrate how the flame in your burner should look. Inspect it from time to time and if it deviates in color or character, call an expert to correct the trouble.

735

When your oil burner turns on and off more frequently than usual, check to see if your tank is nearly empty. This also happens when the oil flow becomes clogged.

736

Oil Tank: Always keep track of your fuel supply. This is a frequent cause of oil burner failure that can be avoided if ordering of fuel is done on time.

737

House Current: When the burner stalls, check the house lights to see if the current is off. If there is a power failure, call the power company first.

738

To quiet a noisy burner, put a few drops of oil in the motor oil cup. If the noise continues, call a service man.

739

If you want **automatically controlled heat**, install a heat regulator. It will save you steps and money and keep your home at an even temperature. Much heat is wasted by leaving the draft door open too long. Wasted heat means wasted fuel.

740

In summertime, the **down-draft** shoots fly ash and soot through the cracks and loose joints to a **leaky furnace**, making it an even greater menace than in winter. Cleaning and air-tightening the furnace at the end of a heating season is the first safeguard against fuel leaks and preventable repair costs the following season.

741

Give it a chance to circulate and a little heat will go a long way. If yours is a warm-air system, be sure the cold air returns are kept open. Otherwise the heating system is strangled. If casing air stagnates through lack of circulation, your upstairs will be starved of warmth even though you consume much fuel. You've got to **keep the air moving**—don't let a rug or piece of furniture over a cold air register block the traffic.

742

For more **hot water** at less cost, insulate your tank and pipes. You can buy ready-made asbestos pipe covering, with ready-made straps for clamping, or you can get as-

bestos cement and spread it over the surface.

743

If you have **covering enclosures** over your radiators, make sure there is plenty of room at the bottom for free access of cold air, and that there is a clear outlet for the warm air at the top.

744

Go over your radiators with an oiled cloth to **prevent rusting**, save paint and increase heat.

745

Insure your **radiators** against rust, by **not draining** off the water heating system in the summer. This water cannot rust the radiators because it is deoxygenized.

746

Did you know that **bronze or aluminum paint** may reduce the heat output of your radiators up to 10%? Oil paints have no effect. Dark colors are best heat emitters; light paints poorest.

747

A **reflecting shield** between radiator and wall prevents the wall from absorbing the heat you want circulating in your room.

748

To save heat, it is desirable to remove all **radiator covers** possible to allow better air circulation over the surfaces. Though the radiator tubes may not be pretty, they are **more efficient** without a cover.

749

There are two major types of **air conditioning for homes**—room or central (full house) units. When buying a room air conditioner, check BTU (British Thermal Unit) rating rather than horsepower rating. BTU refers to effective cooling, HP to motor size. Check noise, grille vibration, whether motor has permanent lubrication.

750

Filter-clean air gives wonderful relief to many who suffer from hay fever, asthma, and other allergies that respond to air conditioning.

751

Air-conditioning units help your home stay cleaner — closed windows keep the dirt outside. There's less washing, dusting, vacuuming. Painted and papered walls stay cleaner, longer.

752

For better comfort and satisfaction from your **air-conditioner**, set the unit into a window or space away from the hot rays of the sun; if possible one that gets the northern light; the sun never "touches" there.

753

For a house with hot water or steam heat, a **console type air-conditioner** room unit is preferable. It serves as a substitute for a radiator in heating the room with special coil, and cools through

wall-opening instead of using window space.

Your heating plant needs special conditioning at the end of the season if it is to function at top efficiency the following cold season. Here's what to do:

754

Empty humidifier. Empty all water and remove any incrustations that may affect its efficiency.

755

A soot-lined chimney is a fire hazard. Ask your service man about having it cleaned. And while you're at it, have it repainted. Make sure, too, that the cement is sound where the smoke pipe enters the chimney.

756

Oil boiler doors and hinges thoroughly and go all over the doors with an oil rag. Then leave them open to allow the air free circulation.

757

Hot water temperature can drop as much as 10 degrees Fahrenheit as it travels from the water heater in the cellar to the second floor bathroom. That is the case if the piping is direct to this outlet. So, if you're installing a new automatic water heater in your home, ask your plumber to install it as near as possible to all tap outlets — the kitchen, the laundry and the bathroom — thus avoiding waste heat.

758

Replace filters. If they are very dirty, insert new filters. Otherwise, put the old ones back in place the way you found them—dirty side toward the direction of air flow.

759

Rust-proof your boiler water. The system will work more economically if you remove all rust and scale from water circulating through it. There are special compounds prepared for this purpose. But don't drain the boiler at this time.

760

Furnace soot inside the heating unit blocks off the heat, wastes fuel money. At season's end, remove every speck of soot accumulation. A strong suction cleaner can do the job. If you have none, let your service man do it.

Steam, hot water and vapor boilers are too expensive to replace unnecessarily. You'll be out of luck, out of heat and out of pocket unless you keep that boiler on the job. Follow these safety-first hints:

761

Repair insulation on pipes or ducts. If cracked or peeled, replace it.

762

Repair insulation of furnace or boiler. Rip out any cracks or loose cement and fill with asbestos

cement. The insulating jacket should be tight.

763

At least once a year **boiler flues** should be cleaned and whole system tuned and tightened up.

764

Leave your hot water boiler undrained. If yours has to be emptied to get rid of mud or scale, let the service man do it.

765

Steam boilers should be drained at season's end. If in bad condition, have service man clean out the system. Refill to the top.

766

Check safety valve on steam system (or relief valve on hot water boiler). See that it is clean and operating efficiently.

767

If necessary, **repair the outside insulation of your boiler.** A good idea is to add an insulating jacket to your tank, which helps hot water generate quickly and stay hot longer.

768

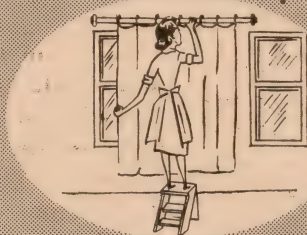
Ready-made jackets are easy to fit around your tank, cost only a few dollars.

769

Your heating pipes should pitch either sharply toward or sharply away from your boiler. If they don't, your heating man can reposition them.

INTERIOR DECORATING IDEAS

Easy Approach To Some Decorating Problems



Too much stress cannot be placed on the importance of proper home decoration and its morale building. Psychiatrists agree that the decoration of a home can go a long way to either soothe or jar our nerves emotionally. Inasmuch as we spend many hours each day in our home it is imperative that it be appealing to our individual tastes as well as restful and comfortable. One way to approach the subject of decorating and furnishing a home is to seek to express some definite idea or theme in it. Generally, most interesting homes, large or small, are those which are consistent throughout, though the decorative themes and colors may differ in each room but yet reflect blending characteristics.

770

When buying materials for color, remember these wear and money savers: 1. Get fast colors. 2. Plain colors are easier to live with over a long period of time. 3. Avoid the use of too many different colors in one room. 4. Just to make sure—examine colors in both daylight and under artificial light.

771

To make small windows look larger, hang wide drapes and curtains above and beyond the window margins and to the floor. Create a border with wallpaper or paint and hang drapes outside the border.

772

You can make large windows appear smaller by covering ex-

cess portions with valance and drapes. **Shorten** a window with a window box.

773

If your window box faces an unattractive view, screen it with floor-length translucent curtains that let in the light and keep out the view. Venetian or bamboo blinds are also good for this problem.

774

You can usually **"work miracles"** with those dull, drab fabrics that are "too good to throw away" simply by dyeing them. The good commercial dyes now on the market cost little, and the process of dyeing itself is easy and safe if you follow the manufacturer's directions. It's usually a good idea to strip the fabric of its old color first, then dye to the shade you want. This results in a "truer," clearer color. Always make sure of the final result by first dyeing a scrap or an inconspicuous part of the fabric.

775

You can do literally anything to a room with **slip-covers**—change color schemes, hide ugly lines or fabrics, dress up old, wornout pieces, protect beautiful furniture, change the whole atmosphere of a room. What's more, you can easily learn to make them yourself. All you need is a sewing machine and lady-like determination. There are

three basic rules to remember for all slip-covers: 1. They must fit. 2. They must be made securely so they will stand hard wear. 3. They must be "right" for the room in texture and color.

776

First select your material. Almost all decorators' fabrics are suitable for slip covers, and you can pick up real bargains at fabric outlet stores. Beware of materials that are too flimsy or sleazy as they are hard to fit and will pull out at the seams. These good, standard slip-cover materials may be found in almost any price range: Cretonne, Chintz, Sail Cloth, Sateen, Rep, Damask, sturdy Brocade.

777

If you are aiming for **perfect fit** when making slipcovers for overstuffed chairs, don't pull or stretch the fabric either in fitting or sewing. Handle firmly however. **Don't cut your slipcover pieces** too full or too small. You can avoid skimpy cutting by pinning each piece firmly to the upholstery seam, marking accurately with chalk.

778

Resist the temptation to leave more than half an inch **seam allowance** when cutting slip-covers and you will avoid baggy covers.

779

How much fabric? For an overstuffed chair, if you use a standard 50" fabric, take five times the length of the chair, measuring from the top of the back to the floor, and allow one extra yard for the making. If you want a plaited flounce instead of a box corner, count in an extra yard for the plaits. Smaller chairs will take proportionately less material. Measure a couch or sofa for length and width, providing also for cushions and plaited flounce.

780

Remnants. You can often combine two fabrics in a chair to secure a beautiful slip-cover—and thereby use up two odd pieces you may have lying about the house. Make the seat and the front out of a flowered fabric, for example, and the back and flounce out of a matching plain fabric. If you plan to use up remnants in this way, allow about $\frac{1}{4}$ yard more of each fabric than if you were making a chair all of one material.

The principal of fitting, cutting and finishing an all-over slip-cover is the same for almost any type of chair or couch. Below are directions for making a cover for a slipper chair — same rules apply in making any all-over slip-cover.

781

Your first step is measuring and

cutting. 1. First, smooth out your fabric and pin it to the chair, beginning at the top front, fitting and smoothing it as you go along. Bring the fabric down and out to the front edge of the seat, then pin it. 2. Cut off the overhang, allowing a full inch for seams, and leave it pinned to the chair. 3. Turn the chair around and fit, pin and cut the back in the same way. 4. Now, pin crosswise strips of fabric across the top of the chair, down each side and around the seat. Fit and pin these strips to the front and back pieces and cut. 5. Finally, measure for the skirt. Make this the depth desired, plus seam allowance.

782

At this point, you are ready for the sewing. Now follow these step-by-step directions: 1. First hem the skirt. Lay the box plaits at each corner, making them 4" to 8" deep. Be sure the center line of the plait comes exactly at the corner of the chair. 2. Unpin the sections of your slip-cover from the chair, taking care to mark all seam lines in colored chalk first so you will know exactly where to sew. 3. Take your bias-covered cord, which you bought when you got your fabric, and baste it along the seams, following the chalk lines you marked. 4. Stitch all the seams, taking care to stitch close to the edge of the cording and to

keep all corners square. 5. Now, cord the lower edge of the slip-cover and prepare to attach the skirt which you have already hemmed. 6. Baste skirt in place and stitch on the chalk lines so cover will fit snugly. 7. Always press a slip-cover from the wrong side. 8. Trim all thread ends. 9. Clip all seams. 10. Then fit the slip-cover on straight.

783

Couches are really easier to cover than chairs, and you follow the rules for fitting, cutting and sewing, which have been outlined above. First take the cushions out and cover them separately. The larger surfaces on a couch make the fitting easy. One very long strip of plaiting makes the skirt for the bottom.

784

Don't discard an upholstered chair or couch when the **springs or hair padding fall out**. Fix it! Here's how: 1. Turn chair or couch upside down. 2. If the nails holding the webbing have come loose, draw the webbing back into place and re-tack firmly. Nail securely, using larger nails at the corners. 3. If, however, the webbing has weakened and pulled away from the nails, you will need new webbing, which is sturdy burlap fabric cut into 4" strips. Tack into place securely, stretching it across and nailing it firmly in

place. A strong man is a big help in this job! 4. Fastening webbing to the coil springs calls for heavy linen thread ("spring twine"). Thread a big needle, sew the webbing to the spring with two over-cast stitches, and tie a knot. Tie four such knots per spring throughout the bottom of the seat and the chair's "innards" will stay firmly in place.

785

Ever consider how easy it is to **discard your old draperies**, pick up a piece of material at a bargain, and brighten up your room with new ones? There are three kinds of drapes you can make: 1. Unlined — usually made of cretonne, rep or woven cotton. 2. Lined — made on the sewing machine. 3. Lined—made entirely by hand.

786

When **buying material for draperies**, be sure it is sunfast, tub-fast and heavy enough to hang well. Chintz, cretonne, gingham and almost any cotton can be used to get an effective and inexpensive bedroom.

787

For very little, you can buy gay cotton materials in striped or floral patterns and **make drapes and bedspread to match**. Either make a box bedspread with cording around the edge and a skirt, or a plain spread that will fall in soft lines. Experiment with

remnants — a plain top and flowered skirt or vice versa; or, chintz or cretonne flowers appliqued on a plain spread.

788

Here are some drapery-buying rules: 1. They should be full enough to fold in softly. 2. They should have enough weight to hang well. 3. They should look as though they were easily held at the top. 4. They should just touch the floor, except in a cottage type of room where sill draperies are permissible.

789

To make your own drapes. Cut material in proper lengths, seam where necessary, press the seams flat, hem, attach lining, and make pinch plaits. There's a clever new device on the market for making pinch plaits — simply sew the tape on the drape, then insert rod through the holes provided. Another marvelous gadget you can get serves both as a rod and as a device for pleating: it eliminates all sewing (except hems).

790

The "Lazy-Susan" is now being adapted to meet the problems of limited space in modern apartments or the small house. Here's an idea for one in a kitchen cupboard to provide space for your

utensils, etc. Mount circular shelves of wood or light metal on an upright rod set in a flat base on ball bearings so the unit will revolve. Shelves need not be spaced evenly. Determine the spacing according to the size of the utensils or other items you plan to store on these shelves.

791

Leftover Wallpaper can be scissored into interesting patterns and designs, and decoratively applied to the walls of your kitchen, dish closet doors, bathroom, baby's room, closets, dresser doilies, telephone book covers, utility box covers, under glass shelving, table tops, and limitless other decorative usages. Of course, save a liberal size of the leftover paper for possible future need such as wall patches and covering unremovable bad wall stains which may save you the price of repapering.

792

Space under basement stairs so often wasted, can be boarded up with plywood or composition board and turned into that "extra" storage closet for infrequently used articles. If your basement is inclined to dampness, be sure to treat the articles you plan to store against rust or mildew.

793

You can have a glamorous new lampshade for practically

nothing. Buy a 10c or 25c paper shade — or use old ones you have around the house that are the right size and shape. Make a skirt for the shade, using bits of ribbon or gay cotton, net, lace, organdy or interesting pieces you may have around. To make, hold the fabric to the shade for length, cut it two inches longer than the shade and big enough to fit easily around the widest part. Then finish with a neat bias binding at the top, and plaits, gathered ruffle or shirring at top and bottom. As a finishing touch, you may want to tie a contrasting colored ribbon around the shade. One-two-three! and you've glamorized that old lampshade. One: Get a piece of striped sail cloth. Two: Cover the old shade with it, and pull firm. Three: Tack into place.

794

A wall table which has to be brought into the center of the room for dining purposes, should not have its top cluttered with too many objects which have to be cleared off. Don't have heavy lamps on it which have to be placed on the floor when eating is in progress. Serving in the living room should be done gracefully without commotion when you bring the table in the center to set it, or carry chairs from other parts of the house. If there are not sufficient small chairs in the living room, keep some folding chairs in the nearest closet.

795

Patchwork tops make gay and interesting pillows, too. Any little scraps of material will do for this. Piece them together to form a pretty design.

796

A screen is a practical, useful piece of furniture — but you can dress it up to be beautiful, too! Tack pieces of any kind of fabric, embroidery, or leatherette to the frames. Change whenever you change your color scheme.

797

That out-moded piano stool or bench will make milady a chair for her dressing table. Paint or stain to the desired shade. Make a pad for the top or a skirt to match fabric of dressing table.

798

Would you trade an old trunk for a gay toy chest? Here's how to make the exchange: Set the bottom of the trunk on a wooden base to each corner of which you have added castors. Nail or glue into place. Paint the top and base a bright, child's-favorite color. Paint the sides in stripes. Glue the seat of a doll onto the center of the top — and your youngster owns a very dream of a toy chest.

799

Painted radiators, harmonizing with the color scheme of your

room will create a most pleasing decorative effect. But follow these steps carefully. First, clean the radiator thoroughly. Then apply a primary coat of red lead or aluminum. Lastly, apply two coats of oil paint in your selected color. For a full gloss, apply a good prepared enamel, for the last coat. Each coat should dry and thoroughly harden before the next is applied, so allow a minimum of 48 hours between coatings.

800

If you line your closets with paper or fabric make sure it is of a type that can be kept clean by wiping with a damp cloth.

801

Refresh a parchment shade where the outside is good but the inside has become drab or discolored, by giving it a coat of white paint. For oily surface, use one coat of clear shellac and let dry before putting on paint; for non-oily surface, apply one or two coats of paint directly to the inner surface.

802

If more closet space is what you need, here's an eye-appealing answer: rig up a cornice board over any wall area without windows. Hang drapes and a venetian blind to create a dummy window behind which you'll have an extra storage area as good as any closet.

803

A small bureau, dresser or bookcase will look perfectly in place against a big wall if you "frame" it with a uniform arrangement of prints or color reproductions.

804

Glamorize your closet shelves — whether for dishes, glasses, linens, or even hats — by neatly covering with colorful oilcloth. They can be easily cleaned by merely wiping regularly with a damp cloth.

805

If you have an old office desk and no use for it as such, turn it into two attractive end tables. First, take out the drawers and saw out the center section. Then cut off the braces between the drawers and add doors with hinges. Sandpaper the surfaces and paint. These chest end tables are not only decorative, but useful in the small apartment where they offer additional storage space.

806

Wield that paint brush! Is there a dark chair, table or chest hiding in a dull corner? Paint it a gay color and the corner will "light" up. Natural wood may be beautiful — but there are times when a coating of colorful paint is desirable.

YOUR HOME - FURNISHINGS

How To Obtain Better And Longer Service



807

Tears in upholstery can be mended almost invisibly by placing mending fabric tape on the reverse side of the upholstery, shiny side of mending tape face down, and pressing with hot iron. (This mending tape is carried by almost all five and ten cent stores).

808

Always remove **cellophane wrapping** from a new lampshade before using it. Heat and atmospheric conditions cause it to warp and wrinkle the shade. An exception is when the shade is made with metal compensating ring.

809

Keep furniture new-looking with this home-made furniture wash: Add 1 tablespoonful turpentine and 3 tablespoons of linseed oil to 1 quart of boiling wa-

ter. This supply should last you months and months.

810

Dry, heated air shortens furniture life. **For your furniture's sake**, as well as for health reasons, keep the air in your rooms humidified. Various inexpensive humidifying devices are sold at department stores. When the moisture in the wood dries out, parts loosen, the wood cracks and warps; even the veneer may loosen. This is one important reason why cleaning and polishing lengthen the life of furniture.

811

Take it easy and your furniture will last longer! It's fine to exercise the urge to "try it this way," but pushing and shoving your furniture from place to place invites strain on the construction and loosening of joints as well as

injurious to your rug. Give hubby and his kid brother a work-out by having them **lift furniture pieces** into place. And always, before moving a bureau around, remove drawers to avoid chipping and breakage.

812

Don't use force with sticky drawers or you may ruin a good piece of furniture. Wait until dry weather makes it easy to open the drawer, then rub the sticky surface with hard soap, paraffin, or stick lubricants. If this doesn't solve the problem, the sticky edges should be sandpapered or slightly planed down.

813

Wobbly furniture drawers should be made sturdy before they come apart beyond repair. Triangular wood blocks, glued and nailed into the corners, make durable reinforcements. So do metal angle brackets.

814

A practical ounce of prevention that will keep painted furniture free of scratches and color-fading is a thin coat of furniture wax applied to the surface. Makes cleaning easier too.

815

If you are tired of continually straightening the pictures on your walls try this: Wind a strip of adhesive tape around the pic-

ture hook to keep the wire from slipping.

816

If you wish to hammer a nail into the wall for picture hanging, place a piece of adhesive tape or scotch tape on the spot prior to driving the nail into the wall. This will avoid chipping of wall plaster.

817

Liquid moth sprays protect upholstery fabrics, not stuffing. Use the spray with great thoroughness, so that every bit of fabric is saturated. Let the furniture dry thoroughly before putting it back into service.

818

Frequent, thorough cleaning of upholstered furniture with a brush or vacuum cleaner attachment is the **best moth preventive measure**. Don't overlook crevices, back and concealed sections. Remove slip-covers often during summer and clean the furniture thoroughly — moths prefer dark hide-aways which slip-covers offer.

819

If moths have settled in the stuffing of upholstered furniture, fumigation is the only cure. You can send the piece of furniture to a reliable company for fumigation, or you can do the job yourself, as follows: 1. loosen the covering at back and bottom. 2. Place moth crystals (paradichlor-

benzene) in the special container attachment of the vacuum cleaner. (Use $\frac{1}{2}$ pound for a sofa.) **3.** Place the end of the hose attachment in the opening at the back or bottom of chair or sofa. **4.** Sprinkle additional crystals in crevices of furniture. **5.** Place cleaner close to furniture and cover both with a double pair of blankets, with newspapers between the blankets, making the covering as airtight as possible. Use books to hold blankets close to the floor. **6.** Switch on the motor. For a chair, run the motor 1 hour; for a sofa, 2 hours. **7.** Do not remove covering for a least 72 hours.

820

Keep pianos away from windows. Sudden **temperature changes injure tone** and woodwork. Keep away from radiators. Heat dries and splits the sounding board. Dampness or dryness is injurious.

821

Leave piano keys exposed to the light during the day, but away from the windows. Darkness hastens the natural yellowing of real ivory. Have piano **tuned** three times a year. Have it "**voiced**" every three years.

822

Play the piano at least a few hours each week. This action is neces-

sary to "exercise" the strings and keep them in good condition.

823

To clean lampshades made of metallic paper or genuine parchment apply a mixture of 1 part turpentine and 10 parts mineral oil with a soft cloth. Wipe off gently but thoroughly.

824

Crystal lamp bases sparkle after this treatment. Add a few drops of household ammonia to clear water. Apply with a soft cloth. Rinse with cloth wrung out of clear water and polish dry.

You can't afford to let your mattress sabotage your sleep. Replacements are costly. So follow these rules to reduce the wear and tear on your present mattress.

825

Prevent tears in your mattress by dressing your mattress in a muslin cover. Place a mattress pad between the mattress and spring and between mattress and sheet.

826

Don't sit on the edge of the mattress. Never bend or roll an innerspring mattress. Never beat or stand on end.

827

Reverse the position of an innerspring at least once a week,

turning top to bottom one week—end to end the next week. **Air and sun** mattress at least once a week. Every few weeks, **clean it on both sides** with brush attachment of vacuum cleaner.

828

For luxurious "feel," and for longer wear of your rugs, use the under-padding sold at the floor covering store.

829

Check floors for **protruding nails**, rough boards and kindred saboteurs of rug and carpet life. Remove protrusions which can wear into floor coverings.

830

Avoid running wires or **lamp-cords under your rugs**. They wear ridges into the fabric and constitute a fire hazard that, in some states, may void fire insurance policies.

831

Broken casters on furniture legs are ruinous to rugs. If hard to replace, use caster cups.

832

Never pull out **tufts or knots** in your rugs. If there are any that make rugs look shaggy, clip off the long ends with a pair of scissors.

833

Reverse the position of your floor coverings, every couple of months, to distribute the wear evenly.

834

An ounce of moth crystals is worth a pound of carpet. Since fine, all-wool rugs are valuable possessions, treat yours as a rarity. Have them cleaned professionally before storing, then sprinkle liberally with moth crystals, roll up tightly, wrap securely in heavy paper, seal with gummed paper and put away in a cool place.

835

Take the "throw" out of throw rugs by winding three "preserving jar" rubber rings together with thread and sewing them to the corners of the rug. They form a wonderful suction cup that will prevent many accidents. Or sew several thicknesses of sheet fiber across each end of the rug.

836

When the **veneer becomes loose** along the edges of a piece of furniture, it should be repaired at once. To reglue the veneer, first remove excess glue from the area, apply fresh glue, put veneer back in place with a weight resting on it to hold it in position until the glue dries.

837

Leather furniture can be cleaned at home. Use saddle soap or mild soapsuds. Rinse with a damp cloth. Dry thoroughly with a soft, clean cloth. Follow with

a leather conditioning dressing. Never use furniture polish, oil, varnish, shellac, wax, or even a treated duster on leather.

838

To stuff feathers into a pillow quickly, and neatly, substitute the ticking for the vacuum cleaner bag. Dump the feathers on paper, turn on the vacuum and draw them in.

839

Where small areas of the rug's surface have been crushed by furniture or the shuffling of feet, you can bring the pile back to normal by applying a hot iron on a damp cloth. Brush with a whisk broom while still damp, in direction of the pile.

840

Increase the years of usefulness of stained or faded rugs, otherwise in good condition, by having them dyed. When properly refinished, a dyed rug loses some of its luster and resilience, and colors stay fast.

841

Renovate that faded fiber rug. Give it a coat of your favorite color house paint thinned with turpentine (1 part turpentine to 3 parts paint. Work the paint thoroughly into the fiber with the brush to obtain the best results.

842

Make scatter rugs safe and skid-proof. Paint backing with a spec-

ial rubber plastic liquid sold in hardware stores. This also prevents curling and fraying.

843

Worn stair carpets can be rejuvenated by moving the carpet up or down so that the unworn riser portion may rest on the treads, and the worn part to be moved to the riser where it doesn't show so so much.

844

When linoleum is laid, the range, refrigerator and other pieces can be moved back in place without scarring the floor if an old blanket is used as a skid.

845

Loose edges in your linoleum, if not fixed promptly, get kicked, scuffed and chipped off. Save money and the risk of accident by cementing down the loose edges as soon as they are noticed. Lift the loose portion and brush out all the dirt. Then apply linoleum cement to the floor (nothing else will do), press back and place a heavy weight directly covering the repaired portion, keeping it there at least overnight. Attempt no repairs with tacks or nails. They may break the linoleum.

846

See that **curtain rods and fixtures** are smooth so that fabrics won't be snagged or torn. Wash as

often as necessary. **Imbedded dirt, grime and grease** tend to weaken the fabric if allowed to stay too long. Use **curtain stretchers** to dry straight curtains, unless made of rayon. **Curtains in children's rooms** should be tied back so that playful little hands will not be tempted to pull on them.

847

If fabric is hanging above a radiator, a suitable cover or deflector **saves frequent washing** and protects it from the heat.

848

Pin back curtains when washing windows so that cleaning solution won't splash on the material.

849

Sheer curtains hang better and resist dust if lightly starched.

850

To dry pastel curtains without fading them in the sunlight, wash and rinse them in the usual way, then place in a large pillow case and hang on the clothesline to dry. This will prevent the sunlight from bleaching the colors.

851

Double the life of plain window curtains by making top and bottom hems the same width. The curtains may then be reversed after each laundering.

852

Curtain tie-backs look most beautiful when they're even. As a guide to getting them exactly even, pull the window shade down to the desired point when placing your curtain ties.

853

Clean **Venetian blinds** with fingered lamb's wool brush. This dusts several slats at one time; or wipe with damp cloth or brush, then a dry cloth. Use the vacuum cleaner upholstery brush to clean tapes. Shampoo with upholstery shampoo; dry completely before rolling. An art gum eraser will remove finger marks from slats.

854

Keep your **window screens** new-looking, rustless and dustless for next season's use by covering them with paper, nailed down on both sides, before storing away.

855

Awnings, shower curtains and similar articles made of **canvas or cotton** can be mildew-proofed. Department of Agriculture chemists tell how: Soak the material in very soapy water and then, without rinsing, dip it into a solution of copper sulphate, which you can get at the drug store. This treatment will protect fabrics even after a number of home launderings, and save costly replacements.

856

When buying bed sheets, guard against low-grade fabrics by test-

ing for excess sizing. Rub a portion of the sheet between your fingers. If fine white powder comes off on your hands, look for a better quality. You'll save money in the long run.

857

How much wear you will get from your sheets depends quite a lot on how you treat them at laundering time. To hang a sheet on the clothesline, put a third or half of the sheet over the line. Sheets pinned at corners or edges are likely to tear. **Do not use many folds** when sheets are ironed; occasionally fold in different places. Repeatedly creasing in same place may cause fabric to crack.

858

To insure longer wear for sheets, it is a good idea sometimes to place the narrow hem of the sheet at the head of the bed, as sheets wear out most quickly just below the pillow where the sleeper's shoulders rest against them.

859

If your bed sheets are wearing thin, here's how to give your bed coverings a brand new lease on life. Hold the sheet up to the light to see thin spots. Before the sheet actually begins to break, tear it down the center, sew the outer selvaged edges together and hem the sides. The portions along the selvages are stronger because they receive the least wear. Before sew-

ing the selvage together, rip back the top and bottom two or three inches from the selvage. Then overlap the selvages and sew them in a flat seam. Resew the top and bottom hems. Hem the side edges to prevent fraying.

860

Shrinking violets, yes! but shrinking bedspreads cost money! Iron bedspreads the long way, to keep in shape. Chenille and candlewick spreads should not be ironed. Shake out and brush them when dry.

861

Cover bare bed-springs, so sheets won't catch on them and tear. Avoid yanking sheets off the bed without loosening the edges first.

862

It's the nap that keep your blankets warm. Ironing ruins this valuable warmth-giver, wears it out. Only the binding should be pressed and that with a warm, not hot, iron.

863

When blanket binding has worn out, a dime will save a dollar. Instead of buying a new blanket edging, crocket an edge on the blankets with mercerized crochet cotton. Edge both ends of the covering.

864

Candlewick bedspreads will not be "detufted" if placed in large

sack or pillow slip when laundered in washing machine.

865

Linen is a fussy fabric so beware ironing the creases in the same place in your napkins and tablecloths every time, for this causes breaks in the thread and wears out the linen.

866

A sure test for a down pillow is to hold the center in the palm of your hand. If the corners sag, get a new one because the down is worn out and you're headed for nothing but insomnia.

867

It's good psychology to keep a box of facial tissues in bathroom, when having guests. Most women will thoughtfully use these, instead of guest towels, to remove excess lipstick.

868

Don't risk wobbly candles! Melt some paraffin, pour it into the socket and put the candle in while its still hot.

869

Chill candles in the refrigerator for 24 hours before using them on the table. They will burn evenly and will not drip.

870

Try colorless lacquer on brass or copper to protect the surface from corrosion.

871

Bookshelves should not be built over radiators or where books are exposed to strong sunlight. Heat or glaring sunlight will fade the bindings and warp the covers.

872

If you value your books, **don't crowd** your bookshelves. The pressure may damage the bindings if you jam them too tightly together and may also scratch the covers when removing and replacing books.

873

Always **store books upright**; leaning strains the bindings. Use book-ends on partially filled shelves to keep them erect. If too tall for the shelves they should be laid flat—never on their fore edges or backs.

874

Don't ruin a new book by violently forcing the covers back. There's an art to opening a new book, and this is it: place the book on a level surface, back down. Let one cover, and then the other, fall to a horizontal position while you still hold the leaves upright. Then release a few pages at a time from alternating sides. Firmly, but gently, press the fallen pages with your thumb along full length of the inner margin. Continue until you reach the center of book and all pages are down. Now you have a book that is properly opened and will lie flat.

YOUR CUT FLOWERS and GARDEN

Guides On Gardening and Growing Flowers



875

If you enjoy gardening but want to avoid grimy fingernails, scrape them over a wet cake of soap before beginning to work. This will keep the dirt out and the soap will easily rinse out afterwards.

876

Since house plants grow toward the light, be sure to turn the plants you keep near the window around every few days to prevent lopsided growth.

877

To prolong the life of cut flowers, handle them gently from the moment they are cut and never lay them on top of each other while arranging them.

878

House plants need moist air to survive. If the house is inclined

to be dry, ensure moisture for potted plants by keeping them on trays of wet sand or pebbles.

879

The top of a pineapple, planted in a pint jar of water, will sprout and root, soon making an exotic and most attractive palm-like plant.

880

A novelty hanging vine can be grown from a sweet potato by planting it in a hanging basket or pot of sand (or sandy loam), then watering occasionally. The leaves are dark green and resemble ivy.

881

Double the life of those pretty flowers by cutting their stems at a long slant. They'll absorb more water that way and you'll brighten your home with their extra freshness. Another authority rec-

ommends this way to **keep cut flowers fresh**: add a lump of sugar or camphor to the water.

882

Even **four-day-old roses** can keep on shedding beauty in your home if properly cared for. Cut their stems very short, eliminate most of the greens and set them in a thick cluster in a shallow bowl. They can be preserved even longer if they are nestled floating in a deep saucer where they can drain up plenty of water.

883

Flowers will keep longer if the leaves below the water are removed. Decaying vegetable matter poisons the water.

884

Corsages or bouquets that are worn should be kept in the refrigerator, or in the closed box, until you are ready to wear them.

885

If **cut flowers** are kept in a very warm room, move them to a cool place each night. Keep them away from warmth whenever they are not on display. **Cut flowers thrive on fresh air**. Let fresh air into the room where they are kept daily, but avoid direct drafts. It is safest, also, to keep them away from direct heat, as well as from the direct hot rays of the sun.

886

Cut flowers should be "hardened" before being arranged in vases. When the flowers arrive, glance at the base of the stems. Have these been freshly cut? If so, place the stems in deep, cool water in a roomy jar. Place the jar in a cool place for a few hours before you arrange the flowers. This process insures absorption by the stems of all the water they can hold. If the stems are dark-tipped, the cut is not fresh. Snip off half an inch from each stem and place in deep water as described above. Be sure to change the water for your flowers each day and recut the stems.

887

When making **floral arrangements**, use containers which can hold enough water to keep the flowers alive and "well fed."

888

Gladioli, snapdragons and stocks can be cut down when their lower blossoms fade. Rearrange them in lower vases gradually and, when you are down to the last blossom, place the tips of the flowers in a dish on the dinner table. Large flowers which have opened fully (like roses) can also be displayed on the table with their stems cut short.

889

Foliage plants can take warmth better than flowering ones and don't

require much sunshine. Water them when the surface soil becomes dry to the touch and wash or spray the glossy-leaved kinds once a week to get rid of dust.

890

Don't discard fading flowers but don't let them stand around half dead. Dispose of the withered blooms but arrange the others with some greens in a smaller container to make them look as attractive as possible.

891

A good treatment for sick plants: Put several empty eggshells into a milk bottle filled with water and let stand for a day. Then water the plants with this mixture.

892

Keep your potted plants in verdant good health with urea, which you can buy at the drug store, as a fertilizer. Use only 1 teaspoonful to the gallon of water.

893

To revive "sick" ferns, water them with $\frac{1}{2}$ teacup of salt added to six pints of lukewarm water. If infested with worms, stick matches into the soil, sulphur end down. For an ordinary sized plant, use four matches—six for a large pot. The sulphur does the trick.

894

Here are few simple tricks for

keeping ferns looking garden-green and forest fresh even in an apartment. Chop up two raw oysters and use as fertilizer. Or, cottonseed meal, if more convenient. Also beneficial are plant-food tablets, available at seed or drug stores. Always keep them away from drafts. Though ferns should not be kept in the sun, they will lean toward it, so be careful to turn the holder every day or two, lest they grow lopsided. Always keep ferns away from gas and out of drafts.

895

To keep a house plant watered while you are away from home, cut a strip of soft white cloth an inch or two wide and two feet long. Put one end of the strip in a pail of water set slightly above the plant. Bury the other end into the soil around the roots of the plant. Your watering problem is solved for at least a week.

896

Chimney soot makes fine fertilizer for gardens and potted plants. Cold tea also makes a good fertilizer for house plants and acts as an insecticide, as well.

897

Those beautiful trees so close to the house may be a fire menace if they grow too close to the chimney. Cut back any overhanging

branches that may be set afire by sparks.

898

If **unsightly moss** is spoiling the appearance of your walks or walls, tidy up the place like this: Scrub the affected areas with 10% muriatic acid (wearing rubber gloves and glasses). Then wash off with water and the brick or stone will be shining through again.

899

To waterproof your flower pots, simply dip them into melted paraffin so that it sinks into the pores.

900

Put a quick end to **ants** that are ruining your garden or invading the house itself. Locate the ant hill and pour a kettle of boiling water down each.

901

When using **garden sprays to control insects**, always spray so that the wind is blowing away from you to avoid contact with the insecticide. Be sure to wash hands thoroughly when the job is completed.

902

Be your own surgeon, when your **garden hose develops a leak**. If torn, cut at the break, remove the damaged portion and join to-

gether with metal hose mender inserted inside the hose and held in place with twisted wire (or a hose clamp) on the outside. Small leaks can usually be fixed with plastic cement or friction tape.

903

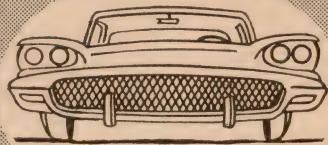
Obey these commandments and you'll lengthen the life of your **garden hose**, not to mention its efficient service: 1. Drain thoroughly after use. 2. Roll into large, loose coils. 3. Store in a cool place. (If hung, place over a rounded object to prevent sharp bends.) 4. Don't drag the hose near oil drippings. Oil rots rubber. 5. Don't turn off the water by pinching on the hose, even for a minute. It strains and weakens the rubber. 6. Never, never step on or drive over your hose. 7. Don't leave hose exposed to the sun for any length of time. Heat deteriorates rubber.

904

Do you often wonder how to **store your garden hose** in the winter? This time coil it up in a bushel basket and cover the basket with wax paper or some cover. **Garden tools** will repay the care you give them. Protect your smaller tools from rusting by keeping a pail of sand near the garage or cellar door and plunging them into the sand when through with them.

YOUR AUTOMOBILE AND YOU

For Better Performance And Longer Car Life



The American Automobile Association recommends the following valuable pointers on conserving your gasoline, oil, etc.—and other general hints. Observe them and you will get at least 33⅓% more mileage out of every gallon and longer life from your automobile.

905

Cars that have automatic transmission, should be pushed instead of towed when the need arises. If the engine starts with the transmission in either Low gear or Drive range, it is apt to accelerate into the back of a towing car.

906

If you must have your **automobile towed** for a distance of more than two miles, be sure to tow with the rear wheels elevated or disconnect the driveshaft—and avoid speeding.

907

Avoid racing engine and excessive choking during warm-up period. **Racing a cold engine** burns gasoline as though your car itself were speeding, and greatly increases motor wear. Never leave a manual choke “button” out farther or longer than is necessary, to get the engine running evenly. Leaving the choke pulled out causes excessive raw gasoline to be sucked into the cylinders and wastefully used up.

908

Start, drive and stop smoothly. Quick acceleration is always wasteful of gas whether when starting or while driving along. Maintain a steady pace — the accelerator “pedal pumper” throws away gas. Plan ahead — when you have to make a screeching stop it means that you have used gas unneces-

Quick acceleration is always wasteful of gas whether in starting or while driving along. Maintain a steady pace — the accelerator “pedal pumper” throws away gas. Plan ahead — when you have to make a screeching stop it means that you have used gas unnecessarily. “Play the traffic signals” to “hit the green”—then you won’t have to stop for a red light. **Keep speed moderate.** High speed consumes much more gas per mile than moderate speed.

909

Avoid **shifting** from a driving range into neutral to coast. It is not only illegal and unsafe but it can also damage the transmission.

910

To **prevent skidding** on wet and slippery roads, reduce car speed to “stop” or to a “very slow”, by light intermittent pressure on the brake before shifting to a low drive position.

911

Keep carburetor in proper order. Too rich a mixture wastes gas. Keep air filter clean. Have carburetor adjusted at least twice a year or every 5000 miles.

912

Maintain a proper **engine heat.** If engine runs cold, get thermostat fixed or replaced, if possible. When the engine is cold, a richer gaso-

line-air mixture is needed—that is, more gasoline is consumed than when the engine is warm.

913

Treat your automobile with consideration and it will save you repair bills and stay with you longer. Run car slowly **the first ten minutes of driving**, and until it acquires the proper driving temperature before attempting to pick up speed.

914

Automatic chokes are very sensitive — in order to insure proper operation, those should be cleaned and adjusted **once** a year.

915

Shut off engine whenever you must park several minutes. An **idling motor** in some cars uses fully a quart of gasoline in two ten-minute stops.

916

Never let **pressure** get below that recommended for your tires. Even slight under-inflation increases rate of tire wear. Six pounds under-inflation, for a tire requiring 30 pounds pressure, will cut the life of that tire by at least 20%. See that each tire has its valve cap screwed on tightly. Never drive on a flat.

917

Always have a "hot spark."

You don't get the full power out of your gas with a weak spark. Fouled or improperly gapped plugs and worn distributor points are two common causes of a weak spark. Others are a weak battery, bad ignition coil, old or oily wiring, and loose connections.

918

Ignition System: Keep your battery charged. Depress the clutch and have car lights turned off when starting engine. Check the battery weekly to see that the battery plates are covered with water; and if plates do not have rubber covers have them covered with grease to prevent corroding. At the first sign of weakness in turning motor over, or if the lights grow progressively dimmer, have the battery recharged or replaced. Wire connections at coils and plugs must be kept tightened and clean. Spark plugs and distributor breaker points must be kept clean and properly gapped. During a rain storm, drive slowly. Better still, stop and turn the front of the car away from storm if feasible, to avoid water from penetrating to ignition parts and affecting the engine. If your car pulls unevenly on hills, or you hear the engine skipping, have a mechanic check for carburetor trouble, poor condenser, fuel line breaks or

some other cause of trouble. Should car need pushing due to weak battery, have it in high gear, with the clutch depressed and the ignition turned on. When car has gained enough momentum, release clutch slowly and at the same time give the engine sufficient gas. Winter time, due to the greater strain put on battery, is the time when special care must be given to ignition parts so that the car will operate smoothly.

919

In cold weather, push the clutch in, tap the accelerator once to set automatic choke, then step on the starter. During cold weather, slight flooding of carburetor at night will help starting in the morning. Remember that five false starts consume more gas than two miles of normal driving. Incidentally, avoid heavy lubricants in cold weather. The unnecessary drag they cause must be overcome by using extra fuel. Consult car manufacturer for proper grade of oil to use in your car.

920

Have valves ground and carbon removed. Sticking valves reduce motor efficiency. Valves which are warped, or do not seat properly, cause loss of compression and thereby waste fuel. Excessive carbon causes "pinging" and loss of power and also wastes gas.

921

Replace worn piston rings, if possible. Worn piston rings cause loss of compression and allow precious fuel and oil to escape unburned.

922

Don't "shock" your engine by turning off the switch immediately and cutting the motor dead after a long run. It is wise to idle the engine for a couple of minutes to let it cool off gradually and safely.

923

A slipping clutch needs re-lining if you want to spare yourself a costly replacement or repair, plus the serious drain on your motor power and gasoline. Little care is needed for a fluid clutch. Just change the clutch oil at regular intervals.

924

It's the rightest kind of thrift to lubricate your car **every thousand miles**. The friction "gremlins" in your automobile are the little devils that steal the power and waste gasoline, bearings and other parts in a hundred different ways. This is one case where spending a little saves a lot.

Triple the life of your tires. In a test of 56 cars of the same make and model, and using the same brand of tires, the driver who was hardest on his tires got 10,500 miles while the driver who observed the

following rules got 36,900 miles:

925

When possible, avoid excessive driving on very hot days. Tire tread wears five times faster at 100°F. than 40°F. In long distance travelling, air pressure is gained, especially with synthetic tires. Thus a tire low on pressure should *never* be inflated while hot but after it has had a chance to cool off. This prevents expansion of the rubber.

926

Keep speed low. High speed is much more **harmful to tires** in hot weather than in cold. Go especially slowly on roads with sharp projecting stones. Take curves and turns slowly. Speeding around curves multiplies tire wear—as much as ten times in some cases.

927

Avoid striking curbs, holes, rocks, etc. Anything that produces a sudden sharp bend in the casing—especially if the tire fabric is crushed between the rim and a hard object—is likely to snap cords within the tire. Other cords then break around the unseen weak spot, and the tire eventually collapses. Cuts or bruises in the sidewall also greatly shorten tire life.

928

Avoid jumping starts and screeching stops. They scuff off more tire tread than many realize.

One ten-foot skid takes scores of miles off tire life.

929

Keep brakes adjusted so that no one tire does more than its share of braking.

930

Switch wheels, including spare, generally every 5000 miles or at least twice yearly. This will assure approximately even wear on all tires and so increase tire life. Several switching plans have been advocated. The most important point is to get each tire used in each position — hence, know exactly which switching plan you are using, and stick to it.

931

Inspect tires weekly for cuts, snags, imbedded glass or nails. Have a vulcanized repair made at once if flaw is found. Even minor cuts tend to grow deeper. Water and grit get in at flaws and eventually destroy the cord structure inside the tire.

932

Check wheel alignment twice a year. Driving an auto with misaligned wheels can rob you of one-quarter to one-half your normal tire life. Check steering wheel "play." Too much "play" causes spotty wear of tires. Check wheel balance. When out of balance, there is a pounding, shimmying

effect which wears the wheel and tire unevenly.

933

If you have chains for your tires and have to use them, don't put them on too snugly. Looser chains not only give better traction but prevent excessive tire wear. Not too loose, however, or else a rut may cut them off and the chains will be lost or will bind around the axle.

934

Stuck in the mud? Don't start spinning those rear wheels. This sizzles months of wear out of your tires. Put ashes or a board under the tires so they can grip and go. Better still, throw salt on the ice or snow in front of the rear wheel so that ice melts away and you regain traction.

935

A good battery will start your car easier under most severe conditions and pays these rewards: less flooding of cylinders with gasoline, easier starting at less fuel cost, less dilution of the motor oil.

936

Fluid level should be maintained about 1/2-inch above the top of the battery plates. Check the fluid weekly to be sure the plates are always covered with water. However, if your battery requires water weekly there is something wrong — have it checked.

937

Pay special attention to your battery in winter. A completely discharged battery usually freezes at 20° F.; and at 50° F., if partly charged. A **frozen battery** means dead cells and dead cells usually spell out "good-bye, battery."

938

When a healthy battery will not hold a charge, have the **terminal connections** checked. If these are all right, check electrical system. Keep cable terminals clean and bright at all times, to avoid corrosion. Remember that unless you drive several miles every day, your generator doesn't get the chance to keep charging your battery. **Continuous**, undercharge may buckle the plates. For safety's sake, have your battery re-charged at the first sign of undercharge.

939

A good **corrosion preventive** is to cover the cable terminals with petroleum jelly. If already corroded, remove the terminals from their posts and thoroughly clean both terminals and posts with a solution of baking soda in water. Wipe absolutely dry before connecting.

940

If your **fan belt** is too loose, adjust the tension. Replace entirely if worn or frayed. Depending on how long a loose, slow fan belt is

allowed to operate, you can waste a lot of gasoline—not to mention the danger of scored cylinders, undercharged battery and other damage.

941

If you decide to **lay up the battery**, put it on a slow charger system. Otherwise your battery may be dead when you next try to operate the car.

942

Keep your **cooling system** cool. Remember, the temperature of burning gasoline (as high as 4,000° F.) is hard on your cylinder walls, pistons and other engine parts. Keep your eye on the temperature gauge and, if it shows the cooling system heating up beyond normal, flush it thoroughly. Best operating temperature is between 170° F. and 190° F.

943

Anti-freeze. There are two schools of thought on this subject. Some are of the opinion that the "permanent", non-evaporating type can be saved and stored in tightly sealed cans for next season. However, it should be tested for sufficient inhibitor life before using again. Other qualified authorities including leading anti-freeze and car manufacturers advise draining and discarding anti-freeze solution after one winter's use to maintain corrosion protection, rust prevention and cooling efficiency.

944

To spare yourself the anguish of **burned-out bearings**, check the "front end" and "rear end" regularly for oil level, and refill as necessary. Do not "mix breeds" of oil, especially with hypoid gears, regardless of any offhand assurances that "it makes no difference." It does! Remember, also, to change to winter and summer grades as recommended by the maker.

945

Here are a couple of suggestions that will save you time and annoyance. If your wheels get "stuck" in a soft snow bank or mud, you'll save your temper if you keep in the trunk of your car, handy for use, a large pail or box of sand to spread under the wheels. Or if you have a couple of sturdy wood blocks to prop under the "stuck" wheels, "away you'll go", without too much trouble.

946

It's important to **prevent rust** from wearing down the chassis paint job. A good waxing is still the best "life extension" treatment. Start by washing the car and polishing the metal. Then apply a straight wax with a soft cloth to the painted and metal surfaces.

947

To remove the **hub cap** without scratching the wheel finish, fit a piece of ordinary garden hose over

the neck of the ripping bar. Thus, when prying off the hub cap, the rubber hose and not the metal bar will come in contact with the finish.

948

At least twice a year, give your **radiator** a thorough internal cleansing. Directions: Open the stopcock and drain out all the water. Close the stopcock and refill. Add cleaning compound. Run motor 15 to 30 minutes with compound in radiator, then drain. Now insert a running hose into the top of the radiator and flush thoroughly, while the motor idles, until the water runs clean. Close stopcock and refill radiator. Note: The best times to do this job are when adding or removing anti-freeze.

949

One way to keep your **lock** working efficiently is never to force it if it sticks. Try blowing powdered graphite into the keyhole. (This lubricant usually comes in nozzled bellows packages that make such application easy.) If you have none or cannot get it conveniently rub key well with the point of a soft lead pencil. Using oil or wax on tumbler locks is not advisable because it gums the mechanism and tends to collect dirt. If lock is frozen because of cold weather, insert key, put a match

to a twist of newspaper and hold close to the lock. The freeze will usually break in thirty seconds or so. Be careful of the paint finish.

950

Get a competent mechanic to examine thoroughly the **used car** you plan to buy. A few dollars so invested may save you many more later. If the car is purchased on installment plan, get the entire cost in writing, including amounts of the monthly payments, interest, charges, etc. Watch out for the **tricky service guarantee**. This can seem to mean one thing and actually mean something entirely different. If entitled to a service guarantee, demand that it be written in plain language that clearly interprets your understanding. Sign no **blank contracts**. In reckoning the price of the car, consider the **actual balance** to be paid, not the allowance you will get in a trade-in. And do not press for an excessive allowance because the mechanical condition of the car is what governs its price. A way-below market price may prove to be a bad bargain. If you have any doubt about the year the car was made, **check the serial number** with an agency for that particular make of car. If **repairs or accessories** are promised, have them itemized on the bill of sale and acknowledged by the signature of seller.

951

If you have **trouble locating your car** in a crowded parking lot, tie a brightly colored ribbon to the radio aerial to make identification quickly and easy.

952

Safety first! Make a note of your blood type on your driver's license in case of emergency or bad accident.

953

Avoid "creeping" by **holding your foot on the brake pedal** during traffic stops unless your car is equipped with a non-creep device.

954

For better engine "braking" when descending long, steep downgrades, get in the habit of using lower gears.

955

Car overloading causes excessive wear on tires as well as being injurious to the springs and shock absorbers.

956

Gas tankcap. It may save you many dollars to have the protection of a locking gas cap. Every motorist should have this protection against **gasoline thieves or vandalism** such as putting sand or other harmful ingredients into the gas tank:

INSURANCE MONEY-SAVERS

Pointers For More Protection At Less Cost



957

Whether you own a home or rent an apartment, it is wise to have a **Comprehensive Personal Liability** policy. It insures you and includes members of your family living with you, against liability for bodily injury to domestic employees and the public in general, damage to others' property occurring on your premises, and many other risks. Your agent will gladly enlighten you of the many advantages of such a policy.

958

If you are a traveling person or for any reason, plan to be away from home for any length of time, it would be well to see that your **Residence Theft Policy** covers you against "**Theft Away from Premises**". It insures your personal property when staying at resorts, hotels, camps, dormitor-

ies, fraternities, or any temporary residence.

959

If approached with a new form of policy offering "additional advantages," find out first whether or not these new advantages can be added to your present policy by means of "**riders**" or **supplementary clauses**. By taking this precaution, you may save money over and above the costs and surrenders involved in taking out a brand new policy. You often suffer a loss by replacing an old insurance policy with a new one. Be sure of all the facts before making change.

960

If you select the "**straight life annuity**" to provide a retirement income, you will receive the largest amount of lifetime income per dollar. However, no further payments are made to anyone upon

the death of the annuitant. Other types of annuities with lower income per dollar, provide income payments to beneficiaries for limited lengths of time, or in some cases, lump sums.

961

Whether buying life, fire or casualty insurance, you will get more for your money by selecting the exact, specific types of coverage that meet our actual requirements. Don't get expensive policies to cover any eventuality when several smaller, less costly policies may give you all the protection you need. Explain your exact needs to a competent, reliable insurance man and he will usually save you money and grief.

962

Life insurance is a lifetime purchase, so know what you buy and get the biggest value. Read your insurance policy carefully. If there is any part of it you do not understand, ask the company to explain it fully. Your insurance company is eager to have its policyholders know exactly what they are getting. You are not obliged to accept a policy until you have made the first premium payment.

963

It costs you, on the average, at least 2% to 6% more if you pay premiums semi-annually or quarterly, instead of only once a year

(extra bookkeeping, extra cost). Pay your premiums annually and put the difference into your savings account or additional insurance.

964

If you have a need for a considerable amount of protection and cannot make the additional savings necessary in the purchase of "Straight Life" insurance, find out about Family Income and Family Maintenance policies. These include a substantial amount of term insurance and will provide protection during the dependency period of children at a moderate cost.

965

An insurance program should be built primarily upon the needs for cash that will exist at the insured's death, plus family's need for regular, continuing income. Tell your life insurance representative what cash and income will be required at your death. He will tell you how much life insurance will be needed and the kind that best fits your situation. The amount necessary will vary with the number and ages of your children and other factors of your family and financial picture. In determining insurance needs, allow for the value of savings, property, Social Security benefits and any pension or death benefit rights you may already have. Most men carry too little protection, particularly when

the children are young, because they fail to look upon insurance in terms of the income it will provide.

966

If you own several policies, all payable quarterly or semi-annually, change them to annual payments with each policy premium coming due in a different month. You save by paying at the annual rate, but make sure that the payments are conveniently spaced. Your insurance man will help you arrange the details.

967

If yours is a dividend-paying life insurance policy, you can "plow back" these periodical refunds and convert them into additional paid-up insurance (that is, amounts of insurance on which no further premiums need ever be paid). Thus, a \$10 cash dividend from any life policy may purchase paid-up additions worth \$14 to approximately \$30, depending on age, policy, company, etc. By using future dividends to purchase paid-up additions, you will be guaranteeing far greater returns to your beneficiary at a time when money may be needed most. Note also, that no medical examination is usually required when converting dividends into additional paid-up coverage. In order to switch from cash dividends to paid-up additions, you need merely ask

your agent or the company itself to make the change.

968

Many policies carry a premium waiver in case of total and permanent disability. The extra cost is very modest. This small additional premium may mean considerable saving for you because it insures the continuance of insurance coverage during total disability, without requiring further premium payments from you during the non-earning period.

969

It is almost always wise to reserve the right to change beneficiary under your policy. If you fail to do so, you cannot in the future make any change without getting the beneficiary's consent. Should future circumstances make a change desirable and you cannot get the beneficiary's written consent, your only recourse is to lapse the policy and take out a new one, thus causing yourself a serious financial loss.

970

Dividends, left with the company, can also be built up as an interest-bearing savings account. They can be used, moreover, to convert a life insurance policy into an endowment.

971

If you can pay your life insurance

in advance, you can earn an **annual discount of about 2%**. Your company will be glad to give you the facts.

972

Policy options should be studied to determine how best to provide the income needed for dependents. By the use of these options, you can arrange a plan which will guarantee that funds will be available at the time they are needed for emergencies, children's education and so forth, and the income that the family will need to live on.

973

To avoid delay in the settling of a death or disability claim occasioned by a possible discrepancy in the insured's date of birth as given in the policy, and in the papers that must be filled out in the event of death or disability, take this precaution: Furnish your insurance company with documentary evidence of your correct date of birth. The best such evidence is a birth certificate. Other acceptable proofs are church and school records, a passport more than five years old, etc. Insurance companies are glad to keep these records on file, and some will even endorse your policy with an "admission of age," which eliminates any danger of dispute on this crucial question of fact.

974

Usually, it will save your family

money and time if you avoid making the insurance payable to your estate. If payable to the estate, the insurance company cannot make payment until an administrator or executor is appointed by the probate court and is furnished with a court certificate showing such appointment. Remember, too, that in the estate the insurance money is subject to shrinkage through probate and administrative costs, taxes, debts, etc.

975

Another reason for **naming an individual as your beneficiary**, instead of your estate: In many states, the real value of insurance and the face value at death cannot be attached by creditors of the insured if the policy is payable to a "named" beneficiary.

976

If your total policy loans run to \$1,000 or more, see if your bank will arrange to **re-finance the loan**. The interest rate you pay your bank is probably lower than that required by the insurance company. You can use the saving to help buy a new policy to "cover the loan" so that, in the event of death, your family will collect the full amount of insurance.

977

In some states, if the proceeds of life insurance policies are paid to

the beneficiary as an income, instead of a lump sum, and if the proper wording is included in the policy or income agreement, the income in varying degrees is **free from attachment by creditors** of the beneficiary. Consult your insurance representative about this.

978

Instead of having your insurance paid out in a lump sum, in cash, subject to loss through inexperience or poor investments by your beneficiaries, ask your company how you can take advantage of the **"income settlement" privileges** in your policy. The company will guarantee interest, usually 2% or 3%, and will pay your beneficiaries guaranteed installments whether for a period of years or for life. This fund will, moreover, be administered without charge for the benefit of those named in the policies. Your family and financial picture will, of course, determine which option is best suited to your circumstances.

979

Check your policy to see if you were **"rated up"** because of hazardous occupation at the time you took it out, and if your present occupation is non-hazardous, bringing this fact to the attention of the company may be the means of saving the extra charge.

980

All policies, except term insurance,

have **"non-forfeiture"** rights, such as paid-up insurance or "extended" insurance. If you are forced to stop paying premiums on a policy, ask your insurance company for advice as to which provision would best fit your circumstances. This paid-up or "extended" insurance depends upon amount of cash value built up in your policy. Many policyholders are surprised to learn that even after lapsing a policy, they can still enjoy substantial coverage for a period of time.

981

Should you ever find that you cannot pay your premium in cash, and believe that you have used up the entire loan value in your policy, ask the company how much of the **"advance loan value"** you can borrow to pay the premium. Extra loan value usually exists, and, by taking advantage of it, you may save your policy from lapsing.

982

If you are now uninsurable and if your present policies provide for dividends, you may be in luck. Ask your insurance company for the privilege of applying the dividends to **"dividend additions."** Your company will be glad to explain how this increases your insurance benefits, without increasing the cost.

983

Have your **fire insurance** written for a period of three years or five years, instead of for one year. The saving on a three-year policy amounts to about one-half a full year's premium, and on a five-year policy, to a saving of approximately a whole year's premium.

984

If you have a mortgage on your home, you may save your family a lot of grief by taking out an extra policy to cover that loan. Thus, the mortgage payments which might be made difficult or impossible by the death of the bread winner, are protected against that unpredictable emergency.

985

You can collect only the **insurable value of your home**, in case of fire. Don't carry more insurance than the value of your home. Have an appraisal of its value made every few years and adjust your insurance to that value.

986

If the occupancy changes at your residence, be sure to notify the fire insurance company. If you plan to make **extensive alterations or repairs**, the insurance company should be advised accordingly. When you buy a home, do not take over the fire insurance on the property without notifying the company of the change in ownership.

987

Did you know that **changes in actual ownership** may void your policy? Don't wait until there has actually been a fire to find out that you have no effective coverage. Find out in advance, exactly what conditions will void the protection for which you are paying.

988

When you buy residential burglary insurance, look into "**divided coverage**" as against "**blanket coverage**." The rates are always lower.

989

If you are carrying a **jewelry "floater,"** don't have your burglary insurance include an amount for the jewelry you already have covered under the "floater." That's wasted money.

990

Learn the facts about "**comprehensive coverage**," for your automobile fire and theft insurance. The cost is very little more and offers much broader protection.

991

If you go away for a few months, check into the automobile rates in the locality to which you temporarily move. If rates are lower, have your policy endorsed to show the new locality, providing the stay away from home covers a period of two months or more.

YOUR DREAM HOME

Pointers To Consider When "House-Hunting"



992

To be entirely satisfied with your new home, be sure you can answer yes to the following questions: Is the house suitably located for schools, churches, shopping facilities, transportation, your place of work? Is the neighborhood well maintained and are the other houses similar in type and price range to the one you wish to buy? Does the area have a local zoning law or deed restrictions which will protect the neighborhood? Zoning laws and deed restrictions protect against such things as the buidling of commercial property in residential areas, and may regulate lot sizes and type of houses that can be built in that area. Is the house located so that you won't be disturbed by noise, dirt, danger from

highways and other streets with heavy traffic? If not already installed, will there be adequate streets, sidewalks, curbs and gutters? These items are called "**off site improvements**" and you should be sure which of these improvements are included in the sale price of the house and that they will be provided without additional cost to you. Remember that if "**off**" site improvements" such as sidewalks, streets, curbs and pavements, storm sewers, sanitary sewers, etc., are not included in the purchase price, their cost may be **assessed against you** if they are installed by the city or county and you will have to pay for them later. It is a good idea to have the seller list on the purchase agreement the "**off site improvements**" which are included in the sale price.

993

Will the furniture fit the house? Actually measure wall-spaces and room sizes and know beforehand whether your furniture will fit into the new house. If not, consider furniture replacements as that much extra cost. The best way to know whether your furniture fits into the new home, is to make a floor plan drawn at a scale of one-quarter inch equaling one foot. The plan should indicate location and size of windows, fireplace, doorways and other openings. Make tracings of the furniture in same scale or as near as possible, then arrange the cutouts of the furniture tracings on the room plan according to the way you think the room would look best, taking into consideration traffic arrangements, functional groupings, focal interest and general design.

994

Do the floors give easily? Does the house seem to shake apart? If yes, the building isn't solid enough. One way to tell is simply by jumping up and down in the center of each room. (Sounds amusing, but try it!)

995

Closets. Check the number and size of closets to see if they meet your needs, make sure they are

large enough for the purpose for which they will be used. Make certain what is in the back of the closet walls because there may be hot water pipes or other heating devices which may affect the contents you plan to store there.

996

Bathrooms should be located near the bedrooms so that you do not have to enter through another room. Be sure that the wall switch is located so that it can't be reached while standing in the bath tub. (You can get a severe or fatal shock by standing in a bath tub of water and turning on a switch). The lower part of the bathroom walls should be covered with ceramic tile, plastic tile, or some other waterproof material to protect the wall against splashing. Be sure the tile or other covering is properly installed, or you may have an expensive repair job in a year or two. If there's a six-footer in your family, he'll never be happy in one of those three-foot tubs that occasionally turn up in bathrooms.

997

Turn on the faucets. If you get just a slow trickle, the pipes may be too small. If the water runs red or rusty, the pipes are corroded and may eventually leak.

998

Kitchen. Remember this is the room in which most of the housewife's time is spent. Don't overlook the necessity of proper daylight and artificial lighting for evenings. Also important is ventilation, particularly for cooking fumes and odors. Check its layout for convenience, adequate work space, quality of equipment such as refrigerator, gas range, number and location of electric outlets, exhaust fan to draw out cooking fumes, etc. Also if the cupboards are so high you'll be spending half the time climbing up and down ladders. If these don't meet your requirements, think twice before you make the purchase.

999

Is the ceiling solid? Test the plaster by tapping it with a broomstick. Also look for stains, which may tip you off to roof leaks or faulty plumbing. **Also check if the roof is "tight" and weathertight?** Better have an expert judge this factor. **Is there enough lumber in the construction?** Go up to the attic and measure the rafters, beams and studding. They should be close enough to make the frame substantial.

1000

Do the doors open easily and close snugly and squarely?

Sticky doors may simply mean the heat has swollen them. But be sure it's not because the doors have warped because the house has settled or timbering has been too tight.

1001

Electrical Outlets: Notice if wall switches are placed so that they can be reached when you open a door. Make sure you have sufficient power circuits to run all the appliances you use, as some of the older houses were not originally wired to take care of all the electrical equipment we use today.

1002

Basement. A dry basement that will remain free of water is a major consideration. Concrete floor and walls should have a sound surface and if a drain is provided, the floor should have a gentle slope toward it.

1003

New Federal Housing Administration rules encourage homeowners to add **air conditioners** by allowing them to be included in mortgages. This is because such houses have lower potential obsolescence, or loss in value, years ahead.

THE "JIFFY" INDEX

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